

The Oracle

of Mount St. Mary's College

12001 Chalon Rd. Los Angeles, CA 90049

Volume 8,
Number 1

September 9, 1999

A summer passes and
another year of growth
and hardships approaches.

New faces fill the halls.

Memories of those
of years past linger fresh
in few minds as students
prepare for the new year.

Welcome to the

Millennium @ the Mo

your stay

Battling Bureaucratic Run Around

By Lauren Chilstrom

Staff Writer

Anyone who has ever stood in line for an hour at the DMV just to be told that they should have gone to the other "window four" can tell you just how frustrating dealing with the bureaucracy can be. For many Mount students their angst is caused not by the government, but by the bureaucracy on our own campus.

There have been numerous student complaints about the seeming inefficiency and hassle they encounter when dealing with administrative offices on campus. In order to help rectify this ever-exasperating situation, it is necessary to examine the bureaucracy from the viewpoint of those who deal with it and those who deal it out.

One of the biggest complaints among students is holds on registration and housing. Many returning students lost their housing because they did not obtain clearance from the Business Office by the specified deadline, officially July 16, though it was pushed back as far as August to accommodate many students, according to representatives from Student Affairs. Clearance was denied due to the obvious outstanding account balance and the little recognized Student Health Form or Business Office worksheet.

Among these students is Kim Anderson, a second year pre-PT major. When Anderson arrived home from a vacation during the first week of August, she received a letter stating that because she was not cleared by the Business Office, she had lost her housing. Anderson immediately tried to get in contact with someone at the Business Office who could help her rectify the problem. However, she says "I just got the run-around every time I called."

She was told that there was only one person in the office that would know about her problem and that person was not available when she called. By the time Anderson was able to speak to someone about the problem (a late health form), there was no housing available on campus (the waiting list for on-campus housing is approximately ten students long), the only available housing being at the University of

Judaism, about fifteen minutes from campus. Though Anderson is satisfied with her new accommodations, she feels that had she been notified of the problem she may have been able to rectify the situation and keep her housing on campus.

Beyond housing, the Business Office has also placed holds on students' registration, not allowing them to add or drop classes without clearance. However, some holds which students believe to be cleared are still in place when attempting to make changes to their schedule in the Registrar's office.

Second year student Jasmine Mohiuddin experienced such a hassle firsthand this semester. Mohiuddin received a letter this summer saying that she was going to lose her housing due to an outstanding balance on her account. The error was on the part of the Business Office and Mohiuddin was told that her housing and classes were cleared. However, when she tried to change her schedule during the first week of class, she found that the hold had never been lifted. The problem was easily fixed. Mohiuddin notes "it wasn't that big of a deal, but it was annoying having to deal with the same problem over and over again."

Finding an administrative staff member to comment for this article proved a difficult task. Several staff members declined to comment and passed me along the administrative chain to someone they believed more qualified to comment. My search for a talkative staff member brought me to the Office of Student Affairs where Dr. Mari Wadsworth, Assistant Vice-President of Student Affairs, offered invaluable insight into the workings of administration.

Like many students on campus, Dr. Wadsworth believes that the administration is not a perfect system. However, responsibility for making the system work needs to be shared between the administration and the students.

In the case of students losing their housing, Dr. Wadsworth feels that the administration should bear some responsibility for reminding students about the

clearance deadline at least a month in advance. However, it is also up to the student to be mindful of the deadlines and to get Business Office clearance by the deadline. The administration has a responsibility to the students to make the system more efficient, but some responsibilities must be shared with the students.

Dr. Wadsworth believes the run-around problem is simply a problem of miscommunication. It is obvious that staff and students speak a completely different language when it comes to administrative matters. For example, a student may come to the Business Office and say "I got this paper about my financial aid..." and before hearing the rest, the Business Office would send them directly to the Financial Aid Office.

Wadsworth states that the simple solution would involve staff taking the time to really get to the heart of the student's problem and taking the time to listen to what the student is really saying. With the heavy workload of the Business Office and other offices, staff may not have as much time as is required to meet the needs of every student. This is when, says Wadsworth, students should come to her office.

Dr. Wadsworth, who took time out of her busy schedule to comment for this article, and the staff of Student Affairs are here to act as a sort of liaison between the student and the administration. They can help students avoid run-around and can get them in contact with the right administrators to solve their problem.

So many factors contribute to the break-down of communication between offices and the students they serve, including staff turnover, an ever-increasing workflow and an antiquated computer system (set to be upgraded in late October). Administration's best advice for students: be patient! Though the system is not perfect by any means, it can still work for you—if you give it a chance.

As students we should constantly strive to help better the system that serves us, however we share in the responsibility for allowing it to work. Dr. Wadsworth reminds us that "many students think we're against them. We're not."

Summer News Briefs

Compiled by Joan Fletcher

Editor

Saturday, August 28, 1999, Telecommunications held a raffle at Orientation for both Chalon and Doheny students. First prize was two digital cellular phones donated by Airtouch Cellular. Second prize was a pager. Third prize consisted of five individual MSMC pre-paid calling cards.

The winners of the first prize, the cellular phones, were Monica Bilog from Chalon and Edana McGee from Doheny. Theresa Lopez from Doheny won the second prize, a pager. Lisette Godinez, Erica Sanchez, Monica Ureno were the Doheny winners of the phone cards and Cristina Rivera and Megan Villalobos were the Chalon winners of the phone cards.

(Submitted by Diana N. Marticorena)

Significant changes were made in the Chalon resident halls. The Alumnae Office moved out of Rossiter to Doheny to make room for student housing. Two theme houses were created on the Chalon campus, one is located in the CASA and the other, the Magnificat House, is located in Rossiter.

The CASA is reserved for students dedicated to community service. The letters now stand for "Community About Serving All." The Magnificat House has been dubbed the "Christian Living Community." Students who wished to live in these communities were required to apply for residency in the theme classes before the end of last year.

The Chalon cafeteria has once again undergone changes. It has tastefully been repainted in darker pink and lighter green to resemble a pastel watermelon. Food Services also adopted a policy in which no food may be removed from the cafeteria to cut down on costs to replace lost china.

THE ORACLE

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Editorial Policy

The Oracle is a non-profit publication created by the students of Mount Saint Mary's College. Letters to the Editor are strongly encouraged. All letters should be accompanied by full name and signature and may be edited for clarity and brevity. Unsigned letters will not be printed. Please direct all correspondence to The Oracle at 12001 Chalon Road, Box 52, Los Angeles, CA 90049 or via e-mail to oracle@msmc.la.edu. The telephone number is (310) 954-4122. Advertisements, commentaries, columns and political cartoons do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the paper, the college or the writer. Editorials are the opinions of the majority of the editorial staff. The Oracle welcomes articles and contributions by students, faculty, staff and alumni.

CULTURAL CORNER

"Being born and raised in Hong Kong, I experienced the Chinese culture mixed with Western influ-



Customs:

- The majority of the Chinese are devout Buddhists. When they want to ask the Buddha (their supreme savior) for favors or just thank him, they go to the temple, which is usually opened seven days a week; and they burn incense and shake sticks in front of the statue of Buddha.
- One of the most famous and expensive delicacies is Bird's Nest soup, made up of bird's saliva.
- Karaoke is a big trend in Hong Kong now, so many Chinese go to clubs to sing as often as Americans go see movies.

Interesting Facts

- The tiny port city of about 400 square miles, has a population of about 6 million and is one of the most densely populated cities in the world.
- The Chinese ethnic race has a history thousands of years old.
- The huge, crowded streets are shared by zooming bicycles, pedestrians and the few automobiles.
- There is a great gap between rich and poor. Many lower-class citizens make about \$100-200 while there are some whose homes could rival the mansions in Beverly Hills.

Submitted by Cory Tong

Driving The Loop: Fair Game or Run-around?

Pro: Public Relations More Important Con: Students Deserve Equality

By Millicent Ongaco and
Joan Fletcher

Contributing Writer and Editor

Have you ever seen the deer graze gracefully on the hill? Have you ever noticed the quaint house on Bundy that slightly resembles a log cabin? Have you ever marvelled at the sheer size of the mansions that surround us? Probably not.

We speed through our lives and never take a moment to immerse ourselves in the beauty that surrounds us. We rush from place to place, hoping life won't pass us by, as we pass it by in the process.

Mount students have been complaining about the right-turn-only policy onto Chalon again. We want to take all the "short-cuts," while cutting ourselves from what's really meaningful in life. We take everything for granted, from our education to our spectacular view to the freedom we enjoy to be able to share in such a view.

Mount students must realize that we are an extremely privileged people. Speaking of privilege, need I remind you that driving is not a right in the first place. It is a privilege. Laws and policies are enacted for reasons. A great amount of research is done and many options are reviewed to attempt to find a policy that will help everyone involved.

In some cases, the policy may be a compromise to end a dispute. Judging from relations with Chalon's neighbors, it seems the right-turn policy was just that.

I'm not saying the policy is fair...or even our best option, but it is what we

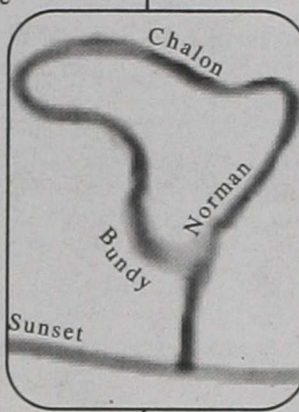
have. Public relations with the neighbors is far more important than any small inconveniences we may experience.

It is said that power comes with money. If this is true, we had better beware because we are precariously perched over a great city of superpowers ready to topple us over at any second.

Besides, there are advantages to the plan. It reduces traffic on the narrow Norman Place and leaves students reassured that you at least won't be run over by a student speeding down Norman. We shouldn't be in such a hurry that we are careless and reckless. The policy in effect is in our best interest. It would be devastating if we hit a child running after a ball as we sped down for one meaningless appointment or another. Human life is a bit more precious than our worthless deadlines. In the end, life is important and nothing else matters.

The system we have in place may not be the greatest, but it works. We should be happy we even have the right to drive up here. I'm sure countless neighbors would love to see some beautiful mansions built over the rubble once called the Mount!

We should be happy for what we have...and make sure we can keep it! I'm sure obeying the speed limit and taking the prescribed route is a lot better than whatever the neighbors would like to do with us. Besides, we can afford to slow down, look around and enjoy ourselves. Maybe then we'll give life a chance to catch up with us.



By Joan Fletcher

Editor

The Brentwood neighbors are at it again. The scream and moan about anything under the sun to force administration to deal with their "needs."

Translation: They don't like us, so they'll use any excuse to complain. Their latest problem deals with the on-going traffic problems. Students are supposed to turn right on Chalon, using Norman only to come up to the college. This policy was implemented to avoid the near accidents we have all witnessed.

It's all good and fair to ask the students to follow this route. It ensures not only their safety, but our own. Everyone knows Norman Place is too narrow to allow two cars to come up or down the street at once.

In addition to the complaint that not all students are complying with this rule comes the all too familiar comments about the speeds at which we "evil kids" drive. Personally, I have never been nearly hit by a Mount student. On the other hand, I can cite countless instances in which a careless neighbor was speeding down Norman, of all places, and nearly took my front end with him.

Though I know many of us speed down the hill occasionally, we are not the basis of the problem. This problem is routed in the community itself, not in the small women's college at the top of the hill. It is very easy to gain a considerable

amount of velocity coasting down the hill. Only the most careful of drivers can avoid reaching speeds above the posted 25 or 30 mph.

On the flip side, how many times have you been tail-gated or honked at when you were exceeding the limit because the impatient Brentwood resident behind you feels 25 is a bit too slow. If they are going to complain about us, they better make sure they are following their own rules. Hypocritical attitudes should have no place in our lawbooks.

While we're talking about equality and fairness, I think we should address the issue of Mount students being required to turn right onto Chalon, avoiding going down Norman, while the neighbors feel free to go down the street. If it is dangerous for us to do so, is it not equally dangerous to have them doing the same?

I propose we make Norman and Chalon one-way streets. That would make it a lot safer for us all. We could all go up the street without worrying if a speeding neighbor is coming down around that blind curve up ahead. That would, of course, be the most sensible solution to the problem. However, I do not see it happening anytime in the future.

Have the neighbors nothing better to do than attack the college year after year? I think we should get to the real issue at hand. I think they believe we do not belong here. We're not good enough to live in Brentwood.

If this is not what the neighbors are trying to say by constantly attacking the college, it is certainly the impression left fresh in my mind. I would appreciate better relations with the community, but at what cost to the students?

Singing the Cafeteria Blues

By Krystal Kim

Contributing Writer

"Food may NOT be taken out of dining room" declare the signs posted around the cafeteria. Can this be true? Surely there must be exceptions, like if I need to take my lunch with me to class or if I absolutely have to eat my lunch in the lounge to catch my favorite soap opera.

Well, I it's not a misprint and the sign means exactly what it says. A new policy requires that every meal, breakfast, lunch and dinner, must be eaten in the dining room.

How did this come about? Well, obviously, it is not the cafeteria workers' fault nor is it the Food Service administration...so let's stop complaining to them and giving them such a hard time. Mount students often project their concerns unfairly on the workers, who want nothing more than to provide us with good, nutritional food.

We have a great food service staff. They work very hard to keep us happy. I appreciate the labors of the food service workers who try their hardest to meet our needs.

This summer, I had the opportunity to work in Food Services. This has allowed me to see the food issue from a more enlightened view. We are not the only ones who eat the food there.

The workers try very hard to make it tasty and nutritional. After all, they eat it themselves.

Why has Food Services changed the policy of allowing students to take their food out to eat elsewhere on campus? The decision was made by the administration. They realized that the Food Service Department's costs were dramatically increasing, surpassing their budgetary limits.

Upon careful consideration, the administration found two basic options. The first was to raise the already high tuition costs. The second option called for some creative problem solving.

The administration realized that the source of the rising cafeteria expenses came largely from the costs of replacing lost silverware, china and trays. Ultimately, this was the result of students taking their food out of the cafeteria to eat in their rooms, lounges or other parts of campus. Many students lost their trays or left them in obscure places to be broken by carelessness or neglect. China and silverware were also lost or mistakenly thrown away. These expenses amounted to over \$100 per resident student.

As a result, the administration suggested that the cafeteria require that the students eat only in the cafeteria, in an effort to reduce growing costs.

So here we have it! It's going pretty well, with the exception of a

few people still unhappy with the changes. Why? Let's just admit it. We're spoiled. When things don't go the way we want them to or differ from what we are accustomed to, we complain. We all need to grow up and make the most of our college experience. It goes by so quickly and this is not even worth the hassle.

I have to admit that eating in the cafeteria can be hard sometimes, but I have met so many people just these past few days. There are students who have attended this college for years that I have never even seen before because they never were around. They have finally been forced to come out of hiding.

I agree that it would be great to take our food out. I have taken every one of my meals out of the cafeteria for the past two years. It will take some getting used to, but it's not that bad. I'm content and I enjoy the food that is served to us every day.

Even when I'm not satisfied, I know that the Food Service Department will do everything within reason to help us out. They will make improvements or additions to their menus when a good suggestion is made. So, if you have any complaints or suggestions, let them know. They'd be more than happy to hear your concerns. Other than that, enjoy your next meal in the cafeteria and I'll see you there!

Editorial: Writing Apathy

"I can't write" whines the Mount community. "I can't speak my mind because I'm afraid of where it'll get me." These are rather strange words, coming from a group of women who feel so strongly about women's empowerment. We may want to rule the world, but we are afraid of opening our mouths. We're afraid "they" won't agree with our motives or our means...or our writing abilities!

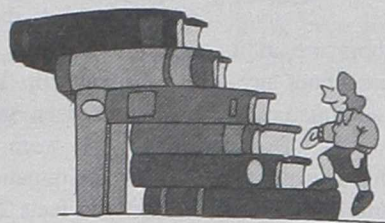
There is no reason anyone on this campus should feel they are not a good writer. We have quality English instructors who teach more than the basics. Besides, interesting articles are merely a reflection of yourself. If you are the least bit interesting, you can come up with something worth reading...and worth printing!

In the last few months, many have been called, but very few have chosen to answer. *The Oracle* is looking for warm bodies interested in writing for the paper. You don't need to be Professor Villatoro to write for the newspaper (although such talent is most certainly appreciated!). All those who are not endowed with a natural ability to write perfectly, along with the all-important self-confidence necessary to submit your work are invited to learn how to prune their writing skills and build their confidence by joining *The Oracle*.

Now that you all think I am trying to recruit a bigger staff (which would be really great, but it's not the sole purpose of this piece), I will move on to the main point of this article. The Mount has high ideals for women and is totally supportive of its students in every way (well, just about...). It's ironic that the students do not reflect this behavior. We are the most apathetic bunch of college women on the planet! It's really sad. We have so many resources, but we fail to utilize them. How many internships does Mike Lee have to let pass without acknowledgement from the Mount community before a student even inquires about one? How many student forums have to be held before interested students actually show up?

If we have so many issues with food services, elevators and telephones, why are none raised with the Administration, who are the important ones? Our concerns should not be brought up by anonymous "observant students," but by the community as a whole. Together we stand, divided we stagnate, as we have the last few years. Mount students! Join together against apathy. Voice your opinion! You'll find it not only to be empowering, but very worthwhile.

MSMC in an Ever- Yesterday a

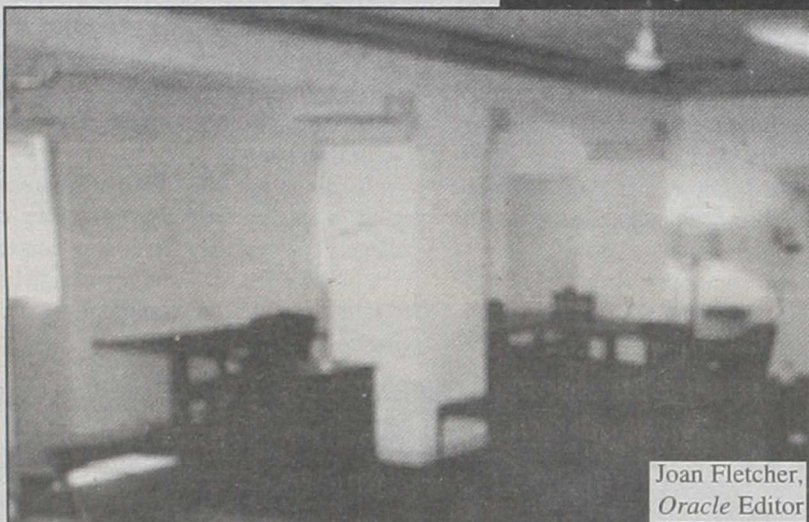


To the Right:
The Brady First
lounge in the 70s was
used for studying and
conversing.

Below:
Now the lounge is
used for a variety of
reasons, including
studying, pool and
television.



Courtesy of
1968-70 Catalog



Joan Fletcher,
Oracle Editor

To the Right:
The Circle
was once used
as a parking
lot.

Below:
Now tiled and
paved in
concrete, the
Circle has
become a
gathering
place for



Courtesy of Mike Skoric



Oracle Photo Archives

Mount History Comes

By **Huong Ho**

Staff Writer

How many of you ladies and gents out there have seriously taken two minutes out of your busy schedules to truly breathe in the beauty and depth of history of Mount St. Mary's College? Being a senior, I forget we even have a flagpole most days. It seems like I was more attracted to the aesthetical beauty of the school before I came here than I am now. But all these changes did not just happen overnight.

Taken for granted, though it is, much of the physical beauty of both the Doheny and Chalon campuses have been a result of an intricate meshing of rich history and dedicated individuals.

When I first visited the Doheny campus as a freshman, I was utterly stunned by the sheer idea of a man donating his life savings to his community. "What a cool guy!" I thought. However, Dr. Fred Simonelli, history professor at Chalon, tells us a different tale of Mr. Doheny...

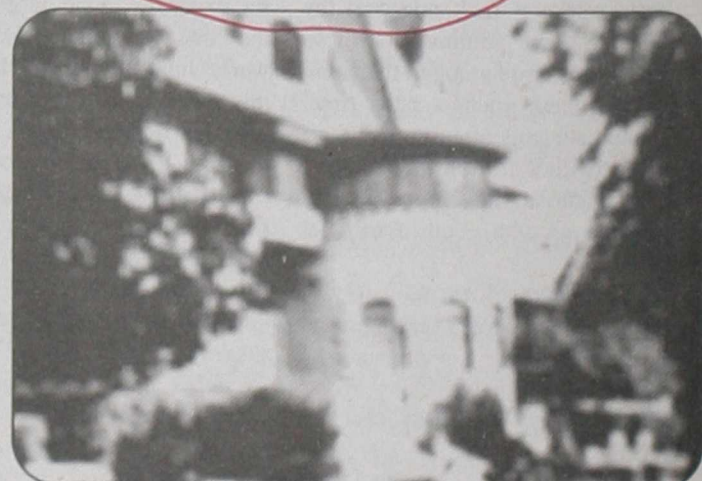
According to Dr. Simonelli, Mr. Doheny was part of a scheme in which he bribed officials in order to gain the rights to pump

oil out of federal land. His political careers came to an end after the scheme was exposed. When charges were brought up against the politician, oil tycoons were binging Mr. Doheny escaped blame by blaming his eldest son. A young man was so caught up in the thought of going to college that he hung himself...at the night.

I bet there's more to the story you didn't know. Find out, you say? You've already waited a semester. Dr. Simonelli's 101 class will be coming out and writing a book this semester on the history of Mount.

Sr. Germaine, CSJ, published a book on Mount from 1925-1975. Her book is in Archives, for the reader. The new volume will continue where she left off. The Oracle is also planning a column through which we can learn many interesting facts about the college you thought you knew....

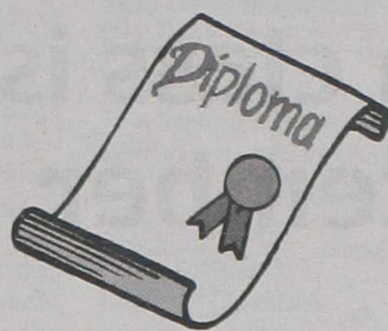
I have to admit that after four years here, I have



Courtesy of the Athenian Yearbook
The Doheny mansion: The CSJ residence is the source of many rumors.

The Chalon campus

Changing World: and Today



Names Alive in New Book

federal land. Many
careers came to an abrupt
the scheme was discov-
charges were brought
the politicians and the
s were being prosecuted,
ay escaped the heat by
his eldest son! The
n was so distraught at
t of going to jail that he
elf...at the mansion!

ere's more Mount histo-
dn't know. No time to
you say? Well, since
ready waited this long,
t as well wait another
Dr. Simonelli's History
will be collaborating
g a book due out next
on the history of the

maine, CSJ, has already
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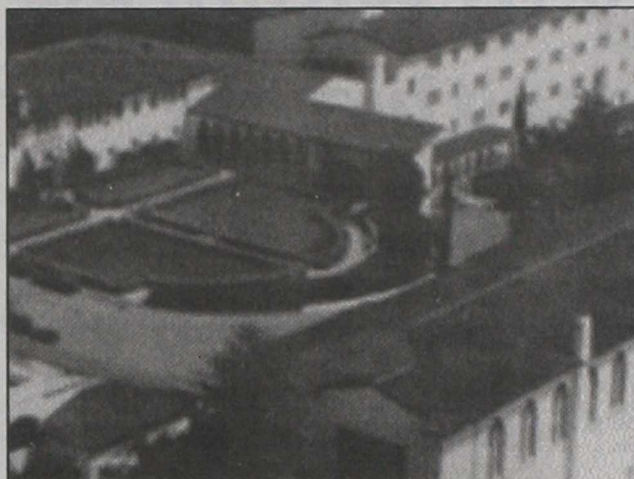
to admit that during my
rs here, I have never

walked down to Archives
myself. However, I've thumbed
through some of those old year-
books. If not for the history in
printed language, the pictures are
worth a thousand words, right?
(Did you think we've always had
white shuttles? Try black school
buses!)

The best kind of history,
though, is from the old-timers. I
love talking to the alums. I mean
the really-life-experienced-been-
removed-from-the-Mount alums.
Let me ask you this: did you enjoy
the ASB dance on Sept. 2? Well,
you're lucky.

An alum once told me that
before dances, all females were
required to line up for inspection.
One of the sisters would inspect
everyone, carrying a basket full of
lace and thread. Boy, if that skirt
allowed a little draft in, she would
sew a lovely piece of lace to your
skirt...and it didn't even match!

Our Mount is a cornucopia of
historical value, from hemming
nuns to the community effort dur-
ing the Brentwood fires of the
60's. (Find out for yourself.) So,
take a little time, make a little
effort and get down (to Archives)
tonight! Happy hunting!



To the left:
Chalon's
Humanities and
Administration
buildings near
the Circle have
changed little
over the years.

Below:
With few changes,
Chalon's main
buildings now
have the Getty
museum growing in
the background.

Courtesy of Cory Tong,
taken from MSMC postcards



Oracle Photo Archives
To the Left:
Graduate
ceremonies were
once held in the
Circle. Before the
structure was
built,
graduation was in a
natural amphithe-
ater on that loca-
tion.

Below:
Graduation is now

Courtesy of Mike Skorik



Joan Fletcher, Oracle Editor



Courtesy of Cory Tong, taken from MSMC postcards

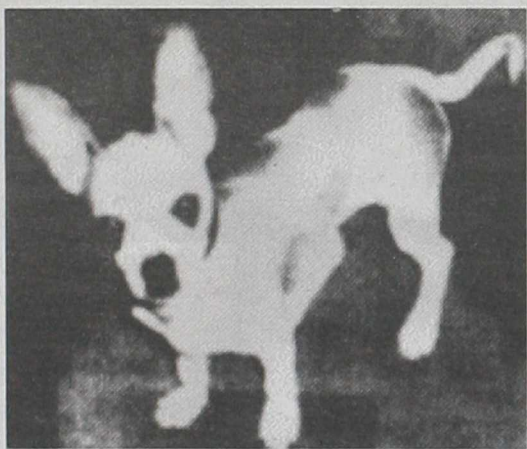
The last day to Add or Drop a class is Friday September 10th.

The last day to Withdraw from a class with a "W" or to file for a CR/NC (Credit/No Credit course) is November 5th.

Forms can be filed in the Registrar's Office in the Administration building.

Join The Oracle!!! It is lots of fun and looks great on a resume!!!

Have you seen this dog? Reward!!! \$250



**Lost: Male, white and brown Chihuahua
**Needs medication!!!
Please call Cyndi at (310) 850-8151**

**friends
don't let friends
drive drunk.**

**Do you like what you see?
Could it be better?**

The Oracle is open to suggestions from the community. We could love to hear from you, especially regarding our new look, choice of stories and what you think should be in the paper!

If you are interested in writing for The Oracle, contact Joan at (310) 954-4122. We encourage new students to join and welcome any input you can give.

Our meetings are Tuesday nights at 7 pm. If you are unavailable to make this time, contact Joan and other arrangements can be made.

Do I have to go to meetings?

Of course not! We also have an e-mail system in which we can keep in contact.

Who are you looking for?

Anyone! No experience is needed. We can teach you anything you need to know. We are always looking for writers, artists, photographers, advertising assistants and layout designers.

Any contribution is appreciated. :o)

Need to Work Out? Try LA Woman!!!

One Day Pass



West LA

(310) 207-2279

All members must call in advance to set up a short informative tour of the club so that we may acquaint your guest with our staff and equipment.

Guests must be at least 18 years of age.

Guests are required to show this pass, a picture I.D., and sign-in at the front desk upon entering the club. Guests must reside within a 25 mile radius of the club.

One pass per guest within a six month period. Please bring a towel, workout clothing and lock.

Guest _____

Ask For: Lisa Arteaga for more info

All exercises and use of all facilities shall be undertaken by the Guest at the Guest's sole risk. The Club is not liable and shall not be liable for any claims, demands, injuries, damages, actions, or causes whatsoever, to person or property arising out of or connected with the use of any services or facilities of the Club or the premises where the same are located or arising out of acts of negligence on the part of the Club, its employees or agents. Extra charge for some services.

Bring this Ad and mention Cyndi at the door for a free trial and a \$50 dollar discount.

Membership can include LA Fitness.

Activity Board

In the Arts:

•Wednesday, September 8th and September 15, 9 to 11 am: The Jewish Vocational Service is hosting a workshop on "Successful Job Search Techniques." The cost is \$25. To register, call (323) 761-8888, ext. 100.

•Thursday, Friday and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm and 7 pm until September 19th: The Hemingway/Dos Passos Wars by Ben Pleasants. This production "offers an intimate look at the tenuous friendship between two of the 20th century's most celebrated authors. It costs \$15. Call (310) 440-3447 for reservations and more information.

•September 14 through November 28: The Getty is hosting an exhibition of Spanish Drawings entitled Juanes to Goya, covering 1560 to 1825.

•Saturday, September 18th at 6:30 pm: The LA Philharmonic, along with renowned conductor, Esa-Pekka Salonen, is performing a free community concert at East LA college. It will be a celebration of Latin-American composers, including works by Marquez, Chavez, Revueltas and Galindo. Directions: It will take place at the Edison Center for the Performing Arts, 1361 Avenue Cesar Chavez in Monterey Park. For more information, call (213) 265-8650.

Orientation

By Joan Fletcher
and Millicent Ongaco

@

the
Mount

LOG ON

to your

future

© msmc

to be a first year student, to not know anyone or anything about where you are now going to school. This helped us deal with the responsibilities that lie ahead.

Many colleges have small orientations where the new students

Walking into the Lecture Hall that first day for Orientation Counselor Training, I didn't know what to expect. What would we be doing for a whole week, I wondered. I soon found out! At first, it seemed as though our job was not all that important. Training would probably be a joke, to say the least, and we would be wasting our last few days before school started. However, this was something I really wanted to do.

As soon as training really started, I realized this was no game. A lot more was expected of us than I thought would be. Ete and her staff were counting on us to be there when needed. It was fun, but serious at the same time.

Now I understand why such emphasis is placed on the Orientation Counselors!

The first sign that this experience would not be some insignificant part of our lives came when Dr. Jane Lingua came to talk to us about what she expected of us. Then, Dr. Mari Wadsworth, Ete Anderson and various other administrators came by to check on how we were doing. They all emphasized the importance of our job.

The things that stood out most in our training experience were the number of team-building, leadership activities that encouraged us to get to know each other. It was a good experience that will help us all in life to work together and to take on new challenges. Also, some of us had to come out of our shells to take on the leadership role. This is when we really got to know each other. In such a large group, we didn't get to know everyone, of course, but we did develop friendships that we might have otherwise passed up.

Another helpful aspect of being an O-Counselor is that it reminds us of what it is like

are shown around and introduced to the campus, but they gain no real knowledge or understanding of college life. The Mount's emphasis on Orientation shows how much it cares for its students. A lot of time and effort is used to help make the weekend go smoothly.

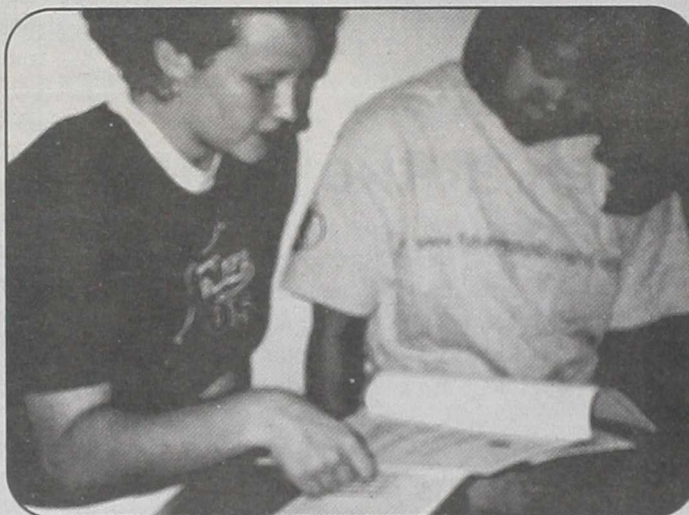
Orientation Weekend must have been the hottest weekend of the year! Friday was the worst. I began to wonder if this

was really worth it and why I even signed up for this. We got up at 6:15 am to be at breakfast by 7 am and worked all day until 11 pm, in the hot sun the majority of the time.

However, by the end of the day, things began to look up for us. Whenever a new student came up to request directions or timidly ask for our help, we felt really good, like

there was a purpose to all this madness! The rest of the weekend went very well. It was satisfying to know so many people trusted us and were able to ask us for help when needed. Our grey "uniforms" (the shirts all the Counselors wore) reassured them that we were approachable. It was nice to know we were making a difference. The lasting impression is one of self-satisfaction. We are still approached every so often when someone needs help or has an important question.

One of the most satisfying thoughts was that we were showing people all the great things about this college. I hope that through our guidance, they are able to learn to love this place as much as we do. I hope they will eventually feel comfortable enough to call it home.



Joan Fletcher, Oracle Editor

O-Counselors, Millicent Ongaco and Brianne Williams discuss the day's events.

The Oracle

of Mount St. Mary's College

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Doheny Renovates Rooms

By Vianney Vasquez

Page Editor

The number of students accepted to the Mount is increasing each year. This year was no exception. As a result, housing problems were created due to the expanding number of residents. There were many incoming students, but not enough places to accommodate them.

As First Floor Resident Assistant for the McIntire building, Avygail Sanchez, stated, "We went from 162 residents to 198". There was a definite problem, thus, a solution had to be found quickly.

The administration resolved the problems concerning housing by creating new dormitories on the Doheny campus and finding ways to accommodate and also place the homeless students. Some of the offices on the Doheny Campus were turned into rooms for the residing students and also the entire first floor of the McIntire building was changed from doubles to triples.

The changes delighted many of the college students. First year student Zuleyma Jimenez says that she is happier in her brand new quadruple dormitory than if she would have been placed in McIntire. She says she loves the fact that everything is new in her dorm. She admits that the place is not enormous in size, but

it is very comfortable and homey. She and her roommates like it so much that they are already planning to keep the same dorm for the following year.

Although Jimenez is pleased with the housing accommodations that she has received thus far, she is not however happy about the community bathrooms. Many students feel it is inconvenient to have to walk down the hall to use the restroom.

However, she is trying to make the best of it. The students on the first floor of the McIntire building are not as enthusiastic. Rooms that were difficult to arrange as doubles were now converted into tiny triples. Residents

were angered at finding that another person was stuffed into the already cramped space.

"The first week was the most difficult," Sanchez says. "Now it seems like the students are adjusting and becoming more comfortable. They are making it their home, and they are arranging furniture in different ways to make the doubles, now triples, as spacious as possible."

She also admitted that one of the hardest thing to deal with were the bathrooms. There are six students to each bathroom in McIntire. Again, she said that the first week was hectic, but the students have now worked out schedules on who showers in the mornings, afternoons, and evening. Chores have also been divided up between the suitemates. Proudly, she said things are a lot brighter, and everything is going well.



Brianne Williams, *The Oracle*
Doheny Building #7 has been converted into student housing to solve overcrowding problem.

Horizon's Day at the Mount



Brianne Williams, *The Oracle*
Cancelled classes brought students from Chalon and Doheny together for Horizon's Day. The theme of the annual event was Women in Business in the Asian Rim. The Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) performed a cultural dance.



Around the World

New Policy Prompts Problems

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

Upon returning to the Mount, students found a new cafeteria policy in place. Signs posted around the room declared "NO FOOD TAKEN OUT OF THE DINING HALL." Student reactions varied according to their lifestyles. Many students were accustomed to eating outside the cafeteria, so the new policy drastically affected their routine.

Some like the new policy because it solves the problems of infestation in the dorms. Students had left food out in lounges and in their room, inviting vermin into the halls. Other students believe the policy is a horrible solution because of conflicting class schedules and bad seating arrangements.

"It is a ridiculous inconvenience," say Marcella Sobalbarro and Josie Urbina.

Employees feel that the change is a disadvantage to them too. "I am unable to take out food, so sometimes, I must settle for what is in the faculty dining room, that is not always good," says an unenthusiastic employee.

Many suggestions have been made, including one that asks the cafeteria provide plastic plates and silverware. According to Dr. Jane Lingua, this will not solve the problem. Trays and food will still be

left everywhere, causing more infestations. She suggests those with scheduling problems who cannot or will not "bag a lunch" go directly to Food Services for feedback on the problem.

Another issue is the amount of money being spent on room and board. Students believe they deserve the freedom of eating where they please. Lingua stressed that the policy saves residents about \$150. However, justifications do not solve the immediate problem.

Cristina Rivera, a third year student, worries about finding time to eat. "I've heard people don't have time to eat lunch. I have to make time to sit in the cafeteria. Before, I could just take it to my room or to class. It's inconvenient if you're sick and can't get out of bed. Before, my friends just brought food to me!"

Another major complaint is the alarming of the cafeteria doors. Many claim it makes them feel trapped, like they are in jail and are not free to do as they choose. At least the door to the Brady Patio is no longer alarmed, so students can now eat outside.

Students wonder if the rules could be changed if more was demanded. Administration stands firm on their decision, but some still make demands. Second year student Alicia Parker says, "Get it changed or we're all going to boycott the cafeteria!"

"Each year, 400,000 Americans die from smoking cigarettes. Each year, American taxpayers spend billions of dollars due to the actions of the cigarette companies. Today's suit seeks to recover these expenses." Attorney General Janet Reno announced at a Press Conference Wednesday.

The United States Justice Department filed a lawsuit which accuses the tobacco industry of fraud and deceit since the 1950s. The suit seeks the recovery of much of the \$20 billion spent by the federal government each year on smoking-related illnesses.

"In the complaint, the U.S. alleges that for the past 45 years, the companies that manufacture and sell tobacco have waged an intentional, coordinated campaign of fraud and deceit," said Reno.

Early Tuesday morning, an earthquake shook the streets of Taiwan. Mass destruction, over 2,000 deaths and over 5,000

injuries were left in its path. The quake measured 7.6 on the open-ended Richter scale, according to the US Geological Survey.

Hurricane Hilary's dying breath sent scattered thunderstorms throughout Southern California Tuesday. Though the storms did not last past Wednesday, the cloud cover and sprinkles it brought with it are expected to linger into the beginning of the weekend. The tropical moisture and humidity it brought are also expected to dissipate by the weekend.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors rejected LA's restaurant letter-grade system Wednesday. Instead, they are adopting a four-step health inspection plan. They expect their new plan to go more in-depth on the food-handling practices of the 10,000 restaurants in Orange County. The inspection reports will also be made available to the public.

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Fwd: Click here if you
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New Semester of Intramurals Begins at the Mount

By Kia Jones

Contributing Writer

Several years ago, intercollegiate athletics was disbanded at the Mount due to a lack of facilities and school spirit.

Last year Claire Oshima, a first year student who really wanted to play soccer, contacted UCLA and asked if we could compete with them in their intramural program. They said yes. As a result, MSMC fielded soccer and softball teams last semester. Both made it to the playoffs.

After the successes of last year's intramural teams, there is a new excitement concerning athletics at the Mount. The informational meeting on

September 14th turned up 25 eager students.

This semester's team sports are flag football (women's), flag football (coed), volleyball, coed basketball plus a one weekend 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Individual sports include single's tennis, doubles racquetball, doubles indoor soccer, and a table tennis tournament.

Students participating in the program will be expected to practice 1-2 times per week and to

attend games. All team registration fees will be paid by the Fitness Center. Individual sports fees must be paid by the individual, but these should only be \$5-\$10.

The Fitness Center is currently working on transportation options for students that have no cars. The most likely transportation window will be back and forth from UCLA on Tuesday through Thursday between 6:00 and 8:00.

Students who participated in the program last semester all seem to have had enjoyable experiences.

Fourth year student, Adrianna Salazar commented that "it was a lot of fun" and it "built team spirit."

Nicole Irizarry, a second year student, also thought

that it "brought people together."

Whether you enjoy a team or individual atmosphere, sports or competition, the intramural program has something to offer. It can provide you with a revitalized sense of school spirit in addition to the numerous psychological and physical benefits of physical activity. Anyone interested should contact the Fitness Center before October 5 to join the fun.



Courtesy of the Fitness Center

The MSMC soccer team made it into the first round of play-offs last semester. The softball team made it into the second round. Here, Christine Hernandez dribbles the ball away from a worthy opponent.

Mount News Flash

The "Maximize your Major" Fair took place on Tuesday, September 21, 1999. Sponsored by the Career Center, the event was designed to help students decide on a major, choose a minor or find an internship. Academic departments as well as corporations such as McDonalds, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and the Santa Monica-UCLA Care Extender Program were present at the event to encourage student participation.

If you are interested in an internship or just want to know what opportunities are available, contact Mike Lee in the Career Center.

On Tuesday, September 6, the hosts of the radio talk show **John and Ken** made insulting and inflammatory rhetoric about some of LA's neighborhoods. They called Exposition Park, University Park, Jefferson Park and West Adams "disgusting," "more Hispanic than black," and full of people who are "gang-type thugs." They maintained that the Coliseum is "a piece of crap...[and] should be turned into a toxic dump."

John Kobylt and Ken Chiampou have consistently demeaned and degraded our neighborhoods and residents. If you have something to say about

this, you can make your voice heard by calling the radio station, faxing your comments or writing the station itself. We should not let such accusations and prejudice continue without a counter action!

John and Ken

KABC Radio

3321 La Cienega Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90016

1-800-222-KABC

1-310-838-KABC (fax)

Fitness Education has added several new services that are available to all Faculty, Staff, and Students. Please stop by or call us at 213-477-2673 for Doheny or 310-954-4345 for Chalon. They are offering free fitness assessment including body composition, free personal training, free computerized nutritional analysis, and free private swim lessons.

First year students will be participating in a service project at Our Lady of Talpa and St. Mary's School in Boyle Heights on Saturday, September 25. They will be repairing and painting the schools to make them a better learning environment for elementary students. The service project is mandatory for all students enrolled in SPR 85 and will count as toward their community service requirement for the class.

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Horizon's Day Focused on Women in Business Along the Pacific Rim

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

As I walk down the steps, I see cultures. Many are bonding in the circle. I hear Italian music. I see cultural dances. I feel togetherness. "It is a time of merriness happiness, and joy," said a Pangkat Pilipino (FASA) member. It is Horizons Day.

Everyone is participating in different cultural experiences. "The quiz given was a good incentive, I enjoyed the entire program," said fourth year student Adrianna Salazar.

A quiz on multicultural professional practices of many cultures including Vietnamese, Philipinos, Japanese, Indian, Korean, and Hawaiian was one of the main features of this year's Horizons Day.

Walking around to the different tables strategically placed throughout the Circle, one could see the emphasis placed on the cultural practices of Asian countries as they related to business.

The prizes included a mountain bike and round trip tickets for two to San Francisco. There were also dances from Pangkat Pilipino (FASA), the

Vietnamese Student Association (VSA), and the Hawaiian club. A unique lunch from the Pacific Rim

Then the keynote speaker and the special guest were introduced by Sister Karen M. Kennelly, President.

We then awaited to hear from Mrs. Vicky Cayetano, First Lady of Hawaii and from business women Julie Anne Hennessy, International Trade Specialist, and Bee Lavery, CEO of BCL International and an executive at Protocol International. The basic message sent is the bonding of women in entrepreneur and leadership.

There were many interesting things said about the way other countries conduct their business relations.

Bee Lavery mentioned that in Saudi Arabia it is an insult to show the soles of your feet or to point your toes. In order to do this, all people must refrain from crossing their legs. It is surprising to learn how different other cultures are, compared to America.

The goal of this year's Horizons Day was to teach women about the leadership skills and knowledge of other cultures that they need in the business world.

In addition to the many practical skills learned, Doheny and Chalon students had a chance to bond in their new-found knowledge. Through that they may open their minds to new opportunities. In the hospitable spirit of Hawaii, "Aloha."

Cultural Tid-bits

•In China, red is a lucky color. However, it is unlucky if you write your name in red.

•In India, you should arrive 15-30 minutes late when invited to dinner. Then, be expected to wait a couple of hours before the food is served. Leave immediately after dinner.

•In Africa, it is bad luck to throw your hair outside. It is believed that if the birds eat your hair, you will lose your mind.

was served.

After lunch, the students from both the Doheny and Chalon campuses filled the Carondelet Center Chapel. A Hawaiian prayer presented by members of the Hawaiian club began the program.



Brianne Williams, The Oracle

VSA, FASA and the Hawaiian Club performed cultural dances at Horizons Day. Na Pua O Ka'aina (Hawaiian Club) performed two songs.

Careless Drivers, Beware!



By Lauren Chilstrom

Opinion Editor

Attention Mount drivers: please stop hitting my car!

As the parking lot seems to get smaller, the dings, dents and scratches in the cars of Mount students seem to be multiplying. There is no worse feeling than discovering your car has been scarred for life by some careless driver who was in too much of a hurry to even leave a note. For those of you who have never had the pleasure of

such an experience, please allow me to relate my personal tale of woe.

It was the second day of class and my friends and I were headed out to my car to make a

food run. As we neared the lot, I could easily spot my baby, a 1998 silver Mustang, parked in the second row. But, to my horror, I also spotted a huge black mark and deep scratches on my back bumper!

Some thoughtless driver had backed right into my car and wasn't even adult enough to leave a note, taking responsibility for the damage. Needless to say, I was annoyed. However, nothing can compare to the annoyance I'm going to feel when I find out how much it's going to cost me to fix something that I didn't even do.

No matter how much I would like to blame such incidents on bad

drivers, much of the problem must be attributed to a really bad parking lot. The parking spaces are tiny at best and ridiculously close together. The aisles are so narrow that anything larger than a clown car has to make a series of complicated maneuvers just to get in or out. And, although the sign clearly says "Compact Cars Only," the many trucks, SUV's and other large cars protruding out into the aisles make driving around the lot nearly impossible at times.

Knowing full well the parking situation isn't about to change any time soon, drivers need to change the way they park.

When you back out of those miniscule parking spaces, would it kill you to go a little slower and actually watch what you're backing into? When you parallel park on the side by the tennis courts, could you be more mindful of the marked spaces so that you only park in one?

If you do happen to get into a little fender-bender in the parking lot (hey, we all have our bad days), could you take the time to do the right thing and leave a note for the person who's car you may have damaged? If you can do these things, there's a good chance that the person parked behind you will also think twice about flooring it backwards out of their parking spot, right into your car.



By Connie Moreno

Staff Writer

Every four years, we go out to the polls and vote for the candidate we think will lead our country in the right direction. We have pride in our democratic system, in which the people can freely exercise their right to choose whomever they want to govern them, nationally and locally. But, is this idea really true? Do the people have complete power over who will be the next president of the United States? Surprisingly, it doesn't work quite that way.

It is true that every four years we vote for our favorite presidential candidate, but there is still another step involved in the election process, one that many Americans do not completely understand, the Electoral College.

The Electoral College has been a part of our history for about 200 years. It was necessary to decide how it was that the president was going to be elected. The idea of election solely by popular vote was not well liked. They thought this would give the president too much power. Another method was to have congress elect the president but this would give them too much power over the executive branch. Finally it was decided that our president would be chosen through the Electoral College.

The way the Electoral College works is difficult to understand, so I will try to explain it as simply as possible. States have the power to choose the method in which they pick electors. The electors pledge their vote to a certain candidate. The least amount of electors a state can have is three, since every state has two senators and at least one person in the House of Representatives.

What we are actually doing when we vote, is voting for those candidates' electors. These

electors then get together on a given day and cast their vote for president and vice president. The states have to give all their electoral votes to the winner in that state. In order to win, the candidate must have at least 270 electoral votes.

The Electoral College defeats the whole purpose of having a democracy. If the United States was truly a democracy, the popular vote would elect the president.

Those who favor the Electoral College claim that if the president were chosen merely on the popular vote, the best candidate would not necessarily end up winning. They argue that the best president for the country is not always the most popular. Examples of non-popular presidents who won the most electoral votes are James Polk, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Richard Nixon, and Bill Clinton.

Manda Molina, a first year Political Science major favors the Electoral College. She puts it quite simply "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Claudia Almanza, a third year Political Science major also favors the Electoral College. "There are a lot of people out there who vote for a candidate simply because they see him a lot on TV and they don't really take the time to inform themselves on the candidate".

As with all controversial issues, there is no one, simple answer. In any event, elections are rapidly coming our way. Candidates will begin to ferociously campaign to win our vote and our trust. The American citizens will cast their vote and feel that they are an integral part in our democracy, the democracy we prize and treasure so much. The Electoral College has existed for a greater part of our history, if we were to abolish it, would it bring negative consequences to our country or would we finally live a true democracy?

Letters to the Editor Cafeteria Policy Unfair

I just read your article, "Singing the Cafeteria Blues." There are a few issues raised by this article that I would like to respond to. First of all, the article states that the loss of silverware and dishes could cause an increase in tuition. It seems to me that the cafeteria is spending a lot of our tuition money already. The entire cafeteria has undergone drastic changes in the past two years. From painting (and repainting) to floor work, alarms on the doors, and a completely new set of tables and chairs. Now, each student here somehow pays over twenty THOUSAND dollars to come to this school. That doesn't include RHA fees, parking fees, and comprehensive student fees, which have all created a very depressing dent in my already miniscule bank account. Surely some of this money could be used to buy some plates?

In this article, Krystal Kim talks about how, although eating in the cafeteria is hard sometimes, she has met people she never knew went to this school. She has been able to meet them at mealtimes because they have "finally been forced to come out of hiding." Well, I probably qualify as one of those people. I prefer to eat my meals alone in my room, with a little music and a book to read. If I eat with people, they are my close friends or my family. I don't like to eat my meals surrounded by strangers and loud talk. With everyone forced to eat in the cafeteria, the place seems more crowded than ever, and it's difficult to find a seat to myself. Often, when presented with the choice, I find myself opting not to eat at all, rather than go through the stress of forced socializing when I'm trying to eat.

An issue was brought to mind while reading this article that is much more important to me than whether or not I have to eat in the cafeteria. Krystal says, "Most students often project their concerns unfairly on the workers, who want nothing more than to provide us with good, nutritional food." I agree with her in part. It is silly to complain to the man serving the food or taking the ID cards about an administrative decision. However, I feel the part about "good, nutritional food" is a little off.

I won't bore you by complaining that the food is nasty, or they used too much grease to cook the fries. In fact, the food served in the cafeteria is usually pretty good. But SOMEBODY is not doing their job. If

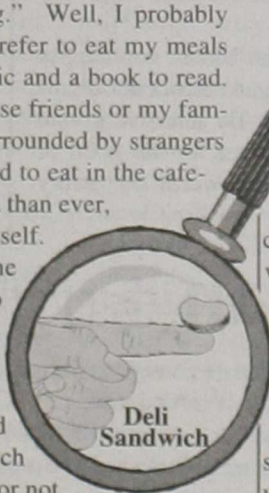
MSMC's cafeteria were a regular commercial restaurant, I believe they would be out of business. During my first week of school this semester, the first day I ventured back into the cafeteria, I found insects in my food. There were about five aphid-like bugs on my broccoli stalk. It looked as if the broccoli hadn't been cleaned properly, so the garden bugs had been cooked along with the food.

I am not one to cause an uproar, but when I hear unmitigated praise for our Food Services department, I must disagree. The health department has visited Mount St. Mary's at least once since I've been here. Another student actually bit into a cockroach while eating her food, and now I have found insects in my food. I know it must be difficult to provide food for such a large number of people, but it has been done, and it can be done properly. I don't expect perfection, but I think everyone at this school has the right to expect, no, to demand, that the food we are served here is sanitary. Far from worrying about lost plates and broken trays, I think our administration should concern themselves with ensuring that our food meets the health standards that are expected at any college.

Syedah Johnson

It seems that MSMC has gotten the wrong impression about its students. They made a big decision about the cafeteria without even consulting with us, even though it would be affecting us the most. We, the residents who pay thousands of dollars a year for room and board, cannot even decide when and where to eat. "They" command that food not be taken out of the cafeteria, even if that means you have to skip a meal because you have class or work. "They" expect you to eat a soggy sandwich for lunch, knowing that a sandwich is not worth the \$5-\$7 that you pay per meal here. The bottom line is that keeping food in the cafeteria is leaving many students' stomachs empty. "They" think that if they trap us in the cafeteria they will help us socialize better, but, really, we are adults who have every right to choose whether we want to eat alone in our rooms, in a lounge, or with others in the cafeteria. That should continue to be our choice. I am not a part of a "few" who are unhappy with the cafeteria situation. A petition with over half of the residents' signatures proves otherwise.

Olivia Banuelos



Editorial: Cafeteria Loneliness

In my two years as a Mount student, I have never been forced to eat alone. There have been occasions in which I have chosen to eat in the solitude of my room as I added details to a paper or crammed in those last bits of information for my next final. However, I have never *had* to eat alone. One of the Brady First Lounge regulars, I chose to eat out of the cafeteria most of the time.

During the short break between classes and stress commonly known as lunch, we would gather. One soap opera or another would be playing on the TV as we chose our places on couches or chairs, at tables or on the floor. There was always at least 3 or 4 of us. At peak times, our numbers grew well above 10 students, as we made room for each new person to join in the culture of our lounge.

I was never one to waste my time on trashy daytime TV, but this was different. It was not the show that was important, but the social interaction and culture we developed. We all got to know each other over time. Some had show preferences. Others didn't. The best part was that it didn't matter what was on; the important part was the feeling of community. This was what college is about.

We analyzed American culture daily and commented on the social problems presented by the common addiction to the unrealistic fantasies of the soaps and trashy talk shows. Without the awkward first moments of superficial conversation, our time in the lounge often went into deep discussions of every imaginable topic. True, we didn't get into such conversations every meal, but I doubt that would be normal....

It was in that very lounge I discovered how much I enjoyed being at the Mount. My first semester was difficult. I looked forward to meal times...not because the food was so good, but because I would take my food into the lounge to participate in the rich culture of the Mount.

Now, as I eat alone, looking around the cafeteria at the few tables of two or three and the many with single diners, I begin to feel lounge withdrawals. What am I doing here? Sure, eating in the cafeteria encourages intellectual conversation. I sit by myself and ponder my existence. Am I really here? Or am I just invisible? Could that be why everyone passes me by without a second glance? Yes, eating in the cafeteria is an improvement in our intellectual and social lives. Isn't that clear enough?

By Joan Fletcher, Editor

Athenian Day Fun Comes Early

By April Zavala

Staff Writer

Looking for a day of fun and excitement...and a free lunch? If so, get ready for the Mount's annual Athenian Day, which will be held on Sunday, October 3, 1999.

What is Athenian Day, you ask. For those who haven't had the opportunity to participate in the fun, Athenian Day is an annual event sponsored by the Fitness Center. Teams of six which include students and faculty participate in a variety of events. It has been called the Mount's wacky mini-Olympics.

This year, many teams are expected. For example, Chalon's Brady First Floor

already has three teams together, plus a cheering team, which is growing daily. It's a day of fun, excitement and plenty of friendly competition.

Don't forget your team spirit because, if you do, you will not be rewarded for cheering on your team. If your team is the champ at the end of the day, your team will receive prizes and, most importantly, bragging rights.

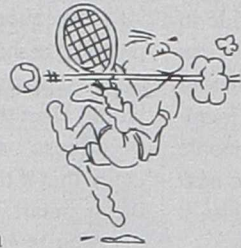
Athenian Day has many events. Some require you to swim, such as last year's build-your-own-raft race. Others just require an open mind. You don't need to be physically fit to participate. All you need is a positive attitude and the willingness to throw out your inhibitions, get crazy and have fun.

You, too, can participate in the festivities. For only \$8 you get a pass to great times, a T-shirt and lunch. For such a small fee, who wouldn't want to join in the action? Participant are also invited to the annual pasta feast and Toga Party the night before the event.

Athenian Day will start at 9 am. It ends around 11:30 am, just in time for Family Day, which begins at noon. So, tell your family to come up a little earlier to cheer you on.

The main point of Athenian Day is to forget your homework and the stress of studies and just have a little fun. So come join us on October 3rd. Afterwards, enjoy a relaxing afternoon at Family Day.

If you can't join a team, at least come down to watch and cheer one on.



CSJ Profile: Sr. Maria Angela Mesa

By Connie Moreno

Doheny Editor

Always hustling and bustling around the Doheny Campus of Mount St. Mary's College, either teaching her Social Action class, recycling, taking food to homeless men at St. Vincent's shelter or organizing the annual Haunted House, Sr. Angela is constantly on the go. She is a familiar face to the students and staff of the Doheny Campus. She is soft spoken, kind and gentle, yet strong and firm.

Born Maria Angela Mesa in East Los Angeles to Mexican-American parents, she is the eldest of four children. She lived in East Los Angeles until she was four, then she and her family moved to Sunland-Tujunga. Sr. Angela remembers her childhood as a very happy time. Her home was "very child-oriented. My parents did all they could to support us in every way they could."

While attending Bishop Alemany High School, Sr. Angela was active and popular. She was Student Body President and she played Varsity Basketball, Softball and Volleyball. She went to prom with her boyfriend, Romy. Sr. Angela says that it was a good experience to have a boyfriend.

"It was like a test to see if my vocation was really true."

It was, and has been for 37 years, but she says she still likes men as friends. She finds their company refreshing "because they are



very detached. They give me another perspective on things than women do and they

are not as nitpicky and detailed as women are."

Sr. Angela has had many rewarding experiences in her years as a sister. She says one of the experiences she treasures most is the eight years she spent working with farm workers in Fresno.

While there, she taught them about their legal rights and about the dangers of pesticides. She also trained teams to go into the camps to teach catechism and to work with the Spanish speaking youth "because they were neglected".

From Fresno, Sr. Angela went to Imperial Valley, where she taught teachers how to teach catechism to the children in the public school system.

Six years ago, Sr. Angela moved from Imperial Valley to the Mount. She admits that she was hesitant to come at first. "I didn't like Los Angeles and I didn't think I would like the college either," recalls Sr. Angela with a smile. "Now I love it, especially the students and Social Action."

Every time she mentions her Social Action class, her eyes light up. She says it's her favorite part of her job as Campus Minister because "you are touched in every way."

She finds it extremely rewarding when a young girl tells her she feels she can really make a difference in another person's life.

Although her life as a sister has been filled with great experiences, it has at the same time been very challenging. Sr. Angela says her greatest challenge has been coming to terms with her illness.

In 1995, Sr. Angela was diagnosed with Parkinson's, a disease which stiffens

the muscles, making it difficult to dress, eat, take a shower and move around.

When she talks about her disease, tears come to her eyes, "it has been really hard for me and I could not have done it without the support of the sisters in my community".

Sr. Angela is not bitter about her disease, though. On the contrary, she now feels more connected to God. "I feel this was a tool of God to strengthen my faith in Him and to teach me to live one day at a time." She also wants to spend as much time as possible with her family. She hates loneliness and loves children. If she would not have become a sister, she would have married and had children of her own.

When asked about the pitfalls of being a sister she can only think of two: learning to live with so many different women and having to do things you don't really want to do.

"Things like driving," she says. "The DMV says that I can still drive but my superiors suggest that I don't."

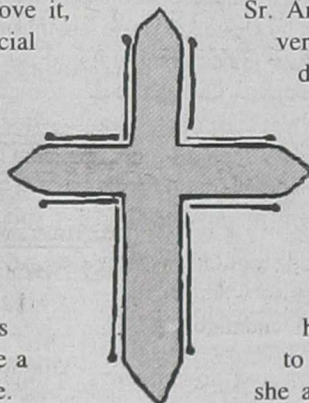
She also says it is hard to live with women and adapt to their distinct personalities but she says "that is the core of religious life, community".

Sr. Angela believes she has been very lucky and very fortunate during her life. Despite the dark hours, she has managed to get herself up and keep on going.

"I am grateful for my parents and my family and the sisters in my community."

She believes that through her religious life, she is closer to God than most people and she affectionately calls him "my friend."

Her message to the Mount community is to "hold each other and respect our dignity as children of God. Be sensitive to one another and work together for the good of the students. They are worth our every effort".



Mount History: Athena

By Joan Fletcher

Editor

Who is Athena and what does she mean to the Mount community? Deprived of a solid background in Greek mythology, many Mount students wonder about the college mascot and wonder why this goddess who represents everything but Catholicism would be chosen to represent a Catholic women's college.

Athena is the goddess of wisdom, prudent warfare and women's crafts. She is the patroness of Athens, Greece. Many stories surround this mythological character. From birth, she was cunning and intelligent.

According to mythology, Athena is the daughter of Zeus and Metis, a nymph. Zeus heard a prophecy that the child Metis bore after she gave birth to Athena would become lord of heaven.

Zeus then swallowed Metis to destroy any possible descendants who might threaten his reign. When the time came for Athena to be born, Zeus' head was split with an axe and Athena jumped from his hear, in full armor.

Athena is widely known for her wisdom in battle. This picture of her often leads people to believe she was a warrior, like Ares. They both may participate in war, but their focus is different.

Ares is the God of War. His name is terrible and his wrath mighty. He takes pride in the battle and bloody affairs of war. Athena, on the other hand, is intelligent and thoughtful. She participates more in the strategic and political side of war.

She brings her wisdom into battle. Athena is also rumored to have aided many heroes, including Perseus, Hercules and the Crews of Algo ship.

So, why did the Mount choose to have Athena for their mascot? There could be many reasons. Athena is a good role model for strong women.

In modern pop culture, Athena has become a symbol of culture wars and sexual politics. Whatever the reason, Athena was chosen to be the strong woman role model who leads the Mount community through daily life.

Correction to History Column from 9/9/99:

Doheny's son Ned did not commit suicide outside the mansion. He was the victim of a double suicide. *The Oracle* apologizes for any confusion.

From My Major... The Joys of being an English major

By Melissa Cruz

Page Editor

Have you ever read "A Midsummer Night's Dream"? Do you want to tackle Moby Dick? Are you a closet poet?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you might want to see what the English department has to offer.

As a third year English major, I'd like to give you an idea of what the classes, subject matter and professors are like.

Three of my upper division courses, English Literature from 1500-1700, American Literature and Shakespeare

Seminar, were taught by the chair of the English department, Sr. Mary Williams. Her classes are challenging, but her years of experience with various types of literature have made her an excellent teacher.

The works covered in those classes range from "Richard III" to Huckleberry Finn. Though I had already read many of these works, rereading them in a college setting shed new light on them and gave them each a more profound depth.

In my second semester at the Mount, I met our writer in residence, Marcos

Villatoro. I have been fortunate enough to be able to take both the Professional Writing Workshop and the Fiction Workshop with him. Having a published writer as a professor is an experience that every Mount student should try while they have the chance. In his classes, students write pieces that are later "work-shopped" in class.

When being work-shopped the student reads her piece and then has it critiqued by her classmates. Trust me, this sounds scary, but it's not too bad. It teaches you how to deal with constructive criti-

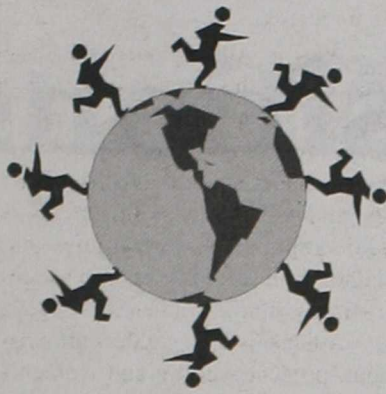
cism.

Currently I am taking both Theory and Criticism and Study of Poetry with Dr. Brueck. In Theory and Criticism, students learn about the different theories used to analyze literature. After learning about the theories, students apply this knowledge and study works of literature in light of each theory. In the poetry class, students study poets ranging from John Donne to Sylvia Plath and learn about the different types of poetry.

If you love literature or just love the language, look into adding an English major or minor.



Global Connections: A look into the cultures of Israel and Japan



By Cory Tong

Managing Editor

Have you ever wondered what life is like in other regions of the world, or even just in college campuses right across town? Well, we hope that the new Global Connections section will satisfy that adventurous mode in all of you!

Far too often we become so involved in our little worlds up here, especially on the Mount, we might not even realize the

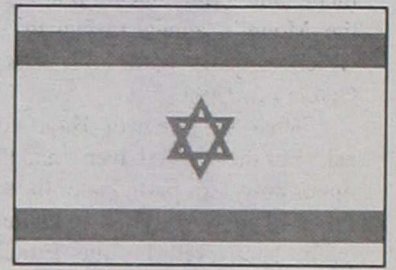
world evolving around us!

Being privileged to have traveled and ventured off to so many countries and experience the cultural differences as well as similarities, I'd like to at least open the door with the stories on this page.

There will be interviews with students from Israel to Japan, Mount students writing about themselves and their cultural background (sometimes even in their own languages... with English translations of

course!), interviews with college students from campuses all over the world and many more interesting informational tid bits and pictures that will, hopefully, help you see life in a much more enlightening way.

Stay tuned to future issues of the Oracle and if you have any ideas or stories you would like to contribute, feel free to drop by the Oracle's newsroom at the Student Activities Office on the 1st floor of the Humanities building!



By Cory Tong

Managing Editor

One of the two girls I have corresponded with in Tel Aviv, is Gabriella Gurnov, a 16 year-old 10th grader who attends a public school in the largest and what she calls the "most polluted city of Israel." At Irony Alef, an art school which specializes in film, jazz or classical music, acting workshops and dance courses, Gabriella studies English, Sociology, a Bible course, Math, History, Literature, Hebrew Grammar and Biology.

This may sound like a nightmare to most of us, but at Irony Alef, the students spend on average about 8-10 hours a day at school. Gabriella assured us that it isn't all boring work at school. Much of her time is spent studying film, which happens to be her favorite subject. And just when you thought our school is the only one with bad cafeteria food, think again. Gabriella described in one word how the school lunch was there: "it sucks!"

In the upbeat, lively city of Tel Aviv, Gabriella described the people there as being loud, impolite and not very tolerant, the results of a large, busy city. On their free time, the students at Irony Alef enjoy making movies, going to the theaters, sunbathing at the beach, and hanging out at pubs, discos and going out to eat at cafes. And sadly, the major problems involving teenagers in Tel Aviv are similar to those here in the U.S., violence and drugs.

By Lena Tanaka

Contributing Writer

My name is Lena Tanaka and I'm a freshman at the Mount. I was originally born in Arcadia, CA, but at the age of four, I moved to Kobe, Japan and lived there for about five years. Then, I moved to Seattle where I lived until I came to school in LA. Moving to Los Angeles is a nice change since I don't have to see rain that often! Although I live in Seattle, I visit Japan often and I love going there because that's where all my relatives live.

Coming from a Japanese background, it's obvious for me to see the difference between the Japanese culture and the American culture. One thing that I have personally noticed is that Japanese people tend to overwork themselves. At

schools in Japan, most of the middle and high schools have to wear uniforms and there are restrictions on how your hair should look.

Getting into a high school in Japan is like getting into college for us. They have to take an exam and choose a high school that best fits them. Although Japanese people are very committed to their work, they also find time to hand out. Most Japanese girls our age like to go to movies, discos, the mall and enjoy almost everything we enjoy doing.

If any of you are planning to visit Japan, here are some interesting facts. You may notice that most of the places you go, like banks or malls, there are always people bowing to you to say "Hello" or "Welcome." And Japanese people enjoy meeting new people, especially when it's a visitor from America.

By Cory Tong

Managing Editor

Another one of my contacts from Tel Aviv, is Tali Friedman. The 17 year-old senior attends high school at Irony Alef, the same public school that Gabriella Gurnov attends. This year, she is taking a full load of courses, including Math, English, Hebrew Literature, Physics, Writing, Bible, and P.E. Tali says she prefers English, and P.E. over the rest of the subjects, but she doesn't care much for Physics or Math. Each day, she spends anywhere from 2 - 9 hours at school.

Amazingly enough, there are no sports for girls at Irony Alef, and the only sport for the guys is basketball. Although, Tali would rather not eat at the cafeteria at her school, she does buy her lunch from a little "boot," a trailer that sells food to workers and students. They are allowed to go off campus to nearby restaurants for lunch, but with only 25 minutes, there isn't enough time.

As far as life goes for teens in Tel Aviv, Tali emphasized that there is ALWAYS traffic, and most businesses are open 24 hours. Life in Tel Aviv is dense and industrial, like New York. Tali feels that it is a very uptight city, where they have news editions every hour, and she calls politics "our national sport." People tend to be quite edgy and impatient, especially on the roads, queues (lines), and in shopping malls. When I asked Tali what she felt was a major problem with teens in her country, she simply replied: social agency.

The Japanese text was written by Lena Tanaka. The translation is above.

私の名前は、田中麗菜です。私は Mount St. Mary's College では、大学一年生です。私は Arcadia CA に生まれ、4歳まで住んでました。その後、日本の神戸に住み、9歳でアメリカへ移り住みました。私は、親せきが皆、日本に住んでいるので、しばらく日本へ帰ります。私は日本から来たので、日本とアメリカの見分け方は、よく分かってます。一つ気付いたのは、日本人は仕事好きで、よく働きます。でも遊ぶ時間も忘れて、私達の年代の女子大生は、映画、ディスコ、デパートその他、私達みたいな遊び時間も過ごしています。日本へ行く予定の方へ少しおもしろい情報をあげます。デパートや銀行へ行けば、必ず御辞儀をして人に挨拶や、はい、いいえと言つのが普通です。それに日本人は、アメリカ人の意見や考えと接するのを、楽しみにしています!!!

Is there a culture you'd like to know more about? If so, contact Cory Tong at The Oracle!

Global Connections was compiled and created by Cory Tong.

Heal the Bay for Cleaner Beaches

By Maria Elena Martinez

Staff Writer

Have you ever stopped to ponder just how safe the water is today at the beach? When you go swimming at any Southern California beach do you become concerned about the dangerously high bacteria levels in the ocean today? Just how sick can you become if you decide to go into the water?

We, as normal everyday students, may not think of these things everyday but there is an organization that has dedicated it's existence to seeing that all of us beach-lovers don't become ill just by stepping into the water. That organization is Heal the Bay.

Heal the Bay was started in 1985 by a non-profit consumer group in order to clean up Santa Monica Bay. Now, almost 15 years later, it has accomplished a great deal.

HB has started several different programs that ensure public safety. They were the ones who started the Beach Report Card, which grade beaches on bacteria levels from A-F on a weekly basis. This ensures that the public is somewhat aware of the pollution they could be stepping into when they go to the beach. In cooperation, the

health department passed regulations that require beaches to close when the bacteria levels are too high, endangering the public.

HB was also responsible for Earth Day; a day dedicated to environmental issues. Their first Earth Fest at Santa Monica Pier was a huge success, drawing a crowd of over 25,000 people. HB is dedicated to educating children on the importance of a clean environment. One of the most successful programs at HB is Coastal Clean Up Day.

On that day, hundreds of volunteers congregate on beaches and pick up trash in order to clean the beach. This program has expanded to the extent that they are no longer just cleaning the beaches but also the water along the edge of the beach. The latest coastal clean-up was on September 18th.

I attended coastal along with 7,500 other hearty environmentalist determined to fill our bags with junk. In the end we ended up with 51,711 pounds (over 25 tons). Among the more interesting pieces that were found was a carved pumpkin full of cooked eggs, a trash can full of champagne bottles, a truck transmission and a complete but totally disassembled T-bird. For more information call 1-800-Heal-Bay.

Suzi's Study Abroad Adventures

By Suzi Schroeder

Staff Writer

Goodbye dorms, goodbye dining hall, goodbye campus center with the posters on the wall. Goodbye library, friends, slumber party that never ends....

No, I'm not writing a college version of "Good night Moon." However, while you were all getting ready for the new school year, I was packing my possessions into my '78 Buick and saying my goodbyes.

Because I am an out of state student, the Mount had been my home for nearly two years straight. And now I was leaving ~sniff~ But I knew as I said my farewells and good lucks for the semester, I was going onto bigger things. I was one of the few...the proud...the patient! I was going to Study Abroad!!

I have always wanted to study abroad. There are so many exciting places to go. At first I was planning on London, mainly because they offer International Business Classes, my major and fencing, a hobby. But after a previous summer's (mis)adventure in the rainy forests of England, I decided that I'd been there, done that and should go somewhere else. (Note to self: never be a nanny ever again). I was contemplating Ireland,

after all I would love to spend a semester studying Irish dance and music (I play the flute and step-dance) but it's not quite my major, and I did want to graduate on time....

So I decided on Austria. They speak German (a wise thing to learn since I would like to attend Grad school in Switzerland) a variety of business classes are offered, and what is this? Ooh fencing! I talked to Susan Fread, the coordinator, filled out the requisite paper work for both the Mount and AIFS, the program that arranges it (though they do prefer to get the paperwork on time) and waited patiently for approval. You could hear the shouts all the way down the hall when I got my acceptance letter.

I was going to spend a semester in Austria, studying at the University of Salzburg! Hurrah! I spent the summer in Los Angeles, living on campus and working to save money for my trip instead of returning straightaway to Phoenix. But now, since there is a month lag time between the start of the Mount and the start of school in Salzburg I must bid my Aideus and get my happy self back to Phoenix so I can do all the preparation things I put off because I was too busy working (and driving the Pixymobile) Well, parting is such sweet sorrow, but I'll be back...unless of course, I decide to stay.





Those First Few Days Transitions to

"Coming from Long Beach State, I feel a little babied, especially by teachers. They really like to watch over you. I like to do things independently, on my own, especially in class. It's a good school, but they need to let students be independent and make mistakes on their own. They have to learn to discipline themselves. You need to be able to do that on your own in the real world."

--Mary Jane Straub,
Chalon Transfer Student

"Everybody's nice. My roommates didn't turn out to be what I thought. I thought we wouldn't get along or understand each other. I miss my boyfriend and feel like I'm away at camp."

--Selena Galindo
Chalon Freshman

"It took a while to adjust. I've had a lot of help. It's a very tight-knit community and everyone's nice. You can't walk through the halls without saying hi to someone. It's addicting, though. Now I smile more often, even to strangers!"

--Alicia Barnhart
Chalon Freshman

"There are more intelligent, mature people here than in high school. It's a challenge. I have to be mature and become my own person. In college, I want to find myself as an individual. I want to find who I really am."

--Vanessa Pineda
Chalon Freshman

"I rushed for Kappas this year. I didn't make it as a pledge, but it made me realize that it doesn't matter what group you're in. You try new things and it doesn't matter if they accept you."

--Janet Li
Chalon Freshman

Off the Chalon's Hill and into the Real World

By Jasmine Mohiuddin
and Lauren Chilstrom
Page Editors

Attention all new students: there is life beyond the Mount. You just may not be able to see it from such a high altitude...

Because food is an essential part of our everyday life, we will start with groceries and restaurants. Knowing full well that one cannot survive off of ramen and cafeteria food alone, it is best to become acquainted with the local grocery stores. Vicente Foods, located on the corner of Bundy and San Vicente, is the closest grocery store to campus. It's perfect for that late-night gotta-have cookie-dough craving.

For those of us that are transportation-impaired, the shuttle will conveniently unload you at the front door of Ralph's. Though somewhat expensive

since its recent remodeling, Ralph's is located on Bundy and Wilshire. Lucky's, a bit better than Ralph's, is a few blocks west of Ralph's, on Wilshire and Berkeley. A good investment would be a rewards card to both chains. Not only will it net you big savings, but it's free!

Just want a quick bite to eat? Then maybe it's time you check out the restaurants in the neighborhood. Westwood is full of them, from Starbuck's to CPK, to Jerry's Deli. A personal favorite for a quick, CHEAP sweet craving, Diddi Reese (located on the corner of La Conte and Broxton) offers cookies for a quarter and ice cream sandwiches for a dollar. Just down the hill in beautiful Brentwood, lie a plethora of dining opportunities. Along San Vicente, the same street Long's is on, you'll find everything from La Salsa to Ben and Jerry's to the

Cheesecake Factory. All of these places are fairly affordable for the girl's night out.

The Promenade in Santa Monica not only has a great variety of restaurants to offer, but it has the co-ed environment you've been craving. Located on Third Street between Broadway and Wilshire, the Promenade is like a huge open shopping mall, complete with street performers and great shopping opportunities like the Gap and Urban Outfitters. It also attracts the largest population of guys you will see outside of UCLA. It is conveniently located about 3 blocks from the beach.

Now that our mini-tour of important places is over, I hope you are enjoying your stay. Phone numbers and addresses for these places can be found in any Westside Telephone Directory. Good luck and have fun.

Welcome

new Mount Student

Upon first glance our campus is an isolated hideaway, nestled in the quiet foothills of Los Angeles. Here, you're studying, thinking and taking in the view with the deer.... How

THERE IS LIFE AT AND BEYOND THE MOUNT

This spread is devoted entirely to students new to the Mount. In the surrounding articles you will find hints, words of wisdom and advice that should you ever desire to climb the hill. Have fun and make the most of your time here on the Mount!

Points of Advice

"Don't depend on anyone else. You're the only person who can help you." Mary Jane Straub, Chalon Freshman

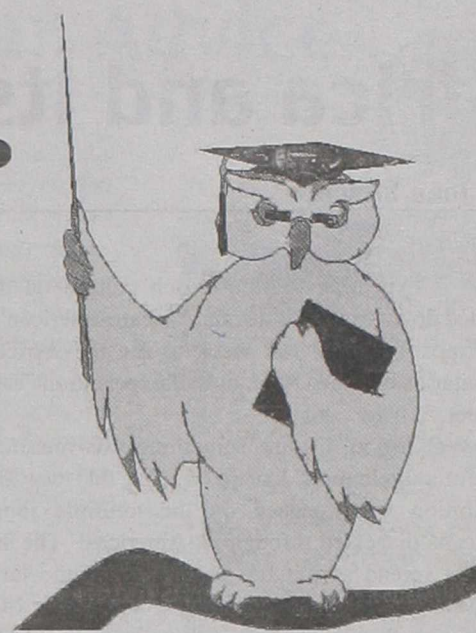
"Be nice to each other. You don't have to be perfect." Selena Galindo, Chalon Freshman

"Relax. It's not as overwhelming as it seems. Enjoy your stay." Alisha Barnhart, Chalon Freshman

"Discover yourself. And study, especially if you're a transfer student." Janet Li, Chalon Freshman

ays at a New School...

s to the Mount



"[When I was a freshman,] it wasn't too hard to adjust to college life. I suppose it could be the fact that this campus (Doheny) is small or perhaps it could be the fact that everyone is friendly. The only thing I found troublesome was all the reading; other than that college life for my first year was an awesome experience."

--Mayra Miranda,
Doheny Second year student

"I love the Doheny campus! I think the campus is very beautiful and so are the people here."

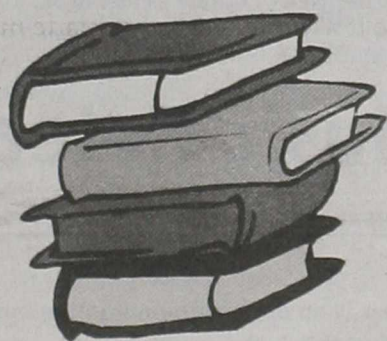
--May Ruiz
Doheny Freshman

"I am adjusting, very well in college. I realize that in college you have to be well organized as opposed to high school where you are not on your own because people make sure you stay on top of things."

--Precious Ruiz
Doheny Freshman

"I really like being a college freshmen, it's a time of new experiences and many more choices about life. I really enjoy being a resident at MS.MC and hope that MS.MC will meet my expectations."

--Janett Sanchez
Doheny Freshman



nts of Advice:

the only person who'll get you where you want to be."
Straub, Chalon Transfer

ou don't have to be afraid of anyone."
Indo, Chalon Freshman

g as it seems. Everything will fall into place."
hart, Chalon Freshman

ally if you're a nursing major. You have to study!"
i, Chalon Freshman

Doheny Happenings: the hottest hangouts

By **Connie Moreno**
and **Norma Marquez**
Doheny Editor, Staff Writer

It's midnight. You've been studying for hours and you're starving! Luckily, you don't live on a mountain. Instead, you're in the middle of everything, where there's food, civilization and no wild animals roaming the streets.

Your first option is Denny's, which is open 24 hours. It's conveniently located in the Village, which is in walking distance from the campus. Other late-night options are Seven Eleven, Grinder's, Jack in the Box, Chano's and Trojan Grounds.

If you aren't in the mood for fast food, head over to Notricas 32nd St. Market to find something to cook for yourself. This market offers a pharmacy, bakery and a little restaurant.

If you're fortunate enough to have free time, the USC Village is the place to be. It's inexpensive and close. You don't even need a car to get there. There is a great variety of stores in the Village, including clothing and music stores.

The Giving Store is a nice place to go for gifts. They sell a variety of cute things like picture frames, greeting cards and figurines.

If you're thirsty after shopping, swing by Calvin's Smoothies. They're delicious and really fill you up. If you happen to have missed lunch, these will tide you over until dinnertime. Baskin Robin's and a movie theatre are other places the Village has to offer.

Tired of the Village? Try something educational. The California Science Center near

Exposition Park is an interesting place to visit. There are also many other museums in the area, including the various cultural and educational exhibits in Exposition Park.

Being in the center of all the action, Olvera Street and Chinatown are a short drive away. There is always something to do and these places help you see the diversity and appreciate the multicultural atmosphere of living in LA.

If you want to escape LA, the Union Station is a short bus trip away. The Station is conveniently located near Olvera Street. Train schedules are available on the Internet.

These are just a few of the options available to the Doheny students. We hope you take the time to explore a little more on your own and discover the beauty of LA.

Africa and Its Tributaries Disappoints Students

By Joan Fletcher

Editor

Expecting to find a rich culture on display, I headed down to the California African American Museum in Exposition Park last week to see the Africa and its Tributaries exhibit. Alas, not all expectations can always be met.

Walking in, I knew something was missing. Upon careful examination, I realized what that was...art! The exhibition was focused on the multiple journeys of Africans dispersed throughout Americas. The small collection spread across the back wall of the large room showed a sample of the culture and talent of African artists, but there were far too few pieces to provide a reasonable basis for understanding the culture. I was disappointed there were not more pieces on display.

The art they did have on display provided an interesting window into the culture and understanding of the African heritage. The exhibition began with a small display on Traditional African art. It mainly consisted of

sculptures.

The next section was Caribbean and Folk art. Many of these pieces were very colorful. The most interesting piece was "Ceremony" by Corchy. It visually depicted the culture of music and dance. In the Fold art, the most interesting paintings were by Sseitor des Trajers. The Untitled paintings gave the audience a view into the family culture as well as the mainstream customs. One aspect of des Trajer's painting "Untitled, 1960" that I found particularly interesting was that it was painted on wood.

The most interesting aspect of the art in this exhibition is that there is a variety of materials used. There were sculptures on painted tin, bronze and cloth as well as paintings and drawings on canvas and wood. Some pieces were a bit abstract, but most represented concrete ideas.

In the African section, the majority of the art displayed was by Howard Smith. The sculpture that stood out was a cloth on cloth sculpture which geometrically represented "African forms." The other notable piece in that section was entitled "Sharecropper." It is a sketch by Elizabeth Catlett. This line drawing gives a detailed

image of a farmer's face.

The last section, African American art, had the most interesting messages. Most of this art was political. It cried out to the viewer, telling a sad story of oppression, discrimination and poverty. One particularly striking piece, "Promised Land" by Willie Birch, questions the notion of the American Dream. It shows a dirty street full of graffiti, litter and presumably the unemployed or homeless African Americans. This clearly shows the idea of the American Dream is not transcending cultural or racial boundaries. Another aspect that may be left up to interpretation is that a white man wearing a suit and carrying a briefcase is shown hurrying by. He is the only one in the painting who is not desolately staring out of the painting. Instead, he stares straight ahead, avoiding the eyes of the hungry.

Though I feel the exhibit lacked the number of paintings necessary to truly appreciate African art, it is not a bad museum to visit, provided you don't expect too much. There are other museums in Exposition Park within walking distance if this one does not fill your needs.

Arts Activity Board

Interact Theatre Company proudly presents **Manage Moliere**, three plays by Jean-Baptiste Moliere. The plays will run from October 9, 1999 to November 14, 1999. Admission is \$12 for students, \$20 general. The three plays to be presented are "The Flying Doctor," "The Jealous Husband" and The Imaginary Cuckhold.

The Interact Theatre is located at 11855 Hart Street in North Hollywood. For more information or reservations, call 818-773-7862.

The **Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra** is performing at Royce Hall on Saturday, September 25, 1999 at 7 pm. The program will feature pieces from Prokofiev, Bach, Copland, Frazelle and Beethoven.

"**Barbara Kruger**" will open on October 17, 1999 at **The Geffen Contemporary of The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)**. Kruger is one of the most renowned and influential modern artists. The museum is

located on 250 South Grand Avenue in Los Angeles. For more information, call 213-621-2766 or look them up on the web at www.MOCA-LA.org.

The **Getty Museum** is hosting a forum called **Contemporary Artistic Practices**. Visual artists and other cultural practitioners will present their work that stimulates research in the arts. A lecture will be held on Thursday, October 7, 1999 at 5 pm. LA-based conceptual artist John Baldessari will be presenting in the Research Institute Lecture Hall. Baldessari is one of the founding fathers of the 1960's West Coast art movement.

UCLA Performing Arts presents "An Evening with Branford Marsalis" on Thursday, September 30, 1999 at 8 pm. Marsalis is a Grammy-award winning Jazz Saxophonist. Tickets are \$20-\$30. For more information, contact the UCLA Performing Arts Center at 310-825-2101 or visit their website at www.performingarts.ucla.edu.

Fall Fling! Mark your calendars! The annual ISAE Fall Fling will be held on Sunday, October 17 at the Pool.

Careers in Student Affairs Day will be held at California State University in Long Beach. Those interested in working at a university, finding preparation programs for the master's degree in student development, hearing from recent graduates and current students from other institutions, and learning about programs throughout the country should consider attending this event. It will be held on Friday, October 22 from 9 am to 12 noon. Featured speakers will be Robert Naples from UCLA, and Renee Barnett Terry from UCSD. Cost is \$10 per person, payable the day of the event. Visit the Career Center at H200A for more information.

The MSMC Writers' Series will begin on October 11 and 12 with the arrival of acclaimed novelist Francisco Goldman. Goldman is the author of two novels, *The Long Night of White Chickens*, and *The Ordinary Seaman*, both of which won prestigious awards. He also writes for the New Yorker and is a Guggenheim Fellow.

Goldman will visit classes on October 11 and 12, and will offer a reading from his latest work on Monday, October 11, at 8 pm, in the Art Gallery. The reading is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jody Baral or Marcos McPeck Villatoro.

The Art Department is presenting a sculpture and painting exhibition in the Drudis-Biada Art Gallery. The Opening Reception for Stan Edmondson and Fred Hauptman's "On and Off The Wall" Exhibition will be held on Sunday, September 26 from 1 to 3 pm. All are welcome and refreshments will be served. The exhibition will run from September 28th through October 21, from noon to 5 pm on Tuesdays through Saturdays. The gallery will be closed on Saturday, October 3.

Advertising Career Day is on Friday, November 5. It is a great opportunity to learn about career paths in advertising. The application deadline is October 16 and a fee of \$10 will cover the application, transportation and meals. For more information, contact the Career Center in H200A.

--Taken from the Chalon Student News

Mount Events

Fast Food Row Gem Offers Fine Italian Cuisine

By Asilki Jones
and Jasmine Mohiuddin

Staff Writer and Page Editor

Our quest of delicious yet inexpensive food led us to Figueroa St. near the Doheny campus. As we wandered down the street, we chanced by Pasta Roma, an Italian Restaurant in the midst of fast food row.

Upon first glance, we had our reservations. But upon closer inspection, we were surprised. They had a rather extensive menu mounted in the window. We peeked in the window and saw a man dining on what could have been a very expensive pasta platter at any other restaurant.

We ventured inside and found an open airy, cafeteria-like atmosphere with friendly service.

The wall displayed accurate pictures of most dishes on the menu.



We ordered linguini paesana, a lovely seafood pasta dish

served with vegetables and covered in tomato sauce, capellini pomodoro, angel hair pasta served with tomatoes, basil and garlic, and penne putanesca, penne pasta with chunks of fresh tomatoes, fresh capers, mushroom, olives and garlic. All three dishes were superior, a pleasant surprise. Who would've imagined such a

gem in the midst of fast food row.

The food was served with the speediness of fast food, had the quality of a fine Italian restaurant. Each table had grated parmesan and red pepper flakes in addition to the usual salt and pepper.

The prices of the dishes were equivalent to getting a Southwestern Bacon Cheeseburger meal at Carl's Jr., the difference being that this food will not re-incarnate itself in the form of acne...and there is more of it!

Pasta Roma is the first restaurant to ever earn a superior in all aspects...and they deliver! We might attempt their delivery service once we've recovered sufficiently from the Thai Time nightmare. <shudders>

Music Releases

By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer

September is an exciting month in the music industry. If you are a music fan, this is the month to max out your credit card. We can look forward to some great new releases.

•Tori Amos "To Venus and Back"...the red-headed piano goddess' double album featuring both live and new material.

•Mary J. Blige "Mary"...the smooth sounds of this incredible woman is a must for any fan of R & B.

•Indigo Girls "Come on Now Social"...for those who attended Lilith Fair you know how amazing these ladies are with guitars.

•Chris Cornell "Euphoria Morning"...the ex-Soundgarden vocalist's first solo venture.

•Nine Inch Nails "The Fragile"...the long awaited double album from Trent Reznor.

•Jay-Z "Backstage Live...A Hard Knock Life"...this album is all live material compiled from his recent "Hard Knock Life Tour."

•Paula Abdul is set to release a new album this month which is yet untitled.



The Club Diva Dishes Out Night Fun Advice



By Julie Purzycki
Staff Writer

Sunday

The Velvet at Club 7969 at 7969 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood. (323) 462-7442: It offers every kind of music from techno, alternative and disco to new wave and industrial all in one glamorous West Hollywood club. "It's a very intimate venue. You can sit back and watch the go-go dancers or go and play a game of pool. You can just meet a lot of cool people," says club veteran Carol Gamez. It's 18 and up, 10 p.m.-2 p.m. \$6 at the door.*

Honkey Tonk Sunday at Club Fais Do-Do at 5257 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles. (323) 954-8080: To satisfy your country music ache, I have Honky Tonk to offer. It's a charming club that plays both new and old country hits. They also have live bands, occasionally, and the crowd is really friendly. It's an all ages club, open from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. with a \$5 cover.

Thursday

Perversion at The Ruby at 7070 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood. (323) 462-7442: If you want Halloween night anytime of the year, check out Perversion. It's an amazing club with 3 great rooms of music and dancing. This is the night to let all your inhibitions go and have fun.

"The people [at Perversion] are such individuals and so real. It's a wonderful change from everyday life," says sophomore Laura Electa-Pinedo.

I myself am a regular at Perversion and I have spotted celebrities ranging from Matthew Perry to Billy Idol. The music ranges from eighties classics to modern gothic and ethereal sounds. So dig out your fishnets and black eyeliner girls, and go with an open mind. Ages 18 and up, cover of \$8. 10 p.m.-3 a.m.

Thursday Nights at The Boogie at 1721 S. Manchester, Anaheim. (714) 956-1410: Second year student Natalie Priester loves this Country-inspired dance club. "It's worth the long drive to Orange County," says Natalie, "there's more class to this club. The guys are complete gentlemen."

Thursday nights at The Boogie offer two dance floors in an air-conditioned environment. The sound system pumps out incredible remixes of today's best music in one room, and your favorite eighties and disco sounds in the other.

Although The Boogie used to be known as The Cowboy Boogie and featured line dancing and men in cowboy hats and tight pants, the club still has a lingering of Country charm. In the upstairs room people do line dances like the "Toosh Push, Slappin' Leather and Power Jam" to eighties and disco music. It's fun for everybody, not just country fans. Ages 18 and up, \$10-\$15.*

Hey, party people, it's Julie, the Mount's resident Club Diva. I decided to let you all in on the best dance clubs, night-time hangouts, and, basically, the cool places to be in Los Angeles at night. Yes I know we all have early classes and homework and obligations. But seriously girls, some of you need to see what the LA nightlife has to

offer. It has come to my attention that quite a few of you don't necessarily have early classes on weekdays. It is for that reason that I am going to give you a list of things to do EVERY night in Los Angeles.

One more thing...I know many of you fine young ladies may be apprehensive about going clubbing. I've heard excuses like, "The clubs are too smoky," and "The guys always try to touch me and take advantage of me." Well,

to ease your pretty little heads girls, I can guarantee you that there is absolutely NO smoking in any indoor public establishment I have listed above. Also, every place I have mentioned has impeccable security and very visible law enforcement. As always, be safe, use good judgement wherever you go, and please don't drink and drive. If you have any questions for the Club Diva, contact the Oracle at (310) 954-4122.

Monday

The Blue Rhythm Jazz Orchestra at The Derby at 4500 Los Feliz Blvd., Hollywood. (323) 663-8979: This is the world famous club that you all saw in the movie "Swingers." For those Mount students who are **over 21**, I suggest this club. On Monday nights, in addition to live music, there are swing dance lessons at 8:30 p.m. and dancing all night after that. Fourth year student Rene Ross has been to The Derby, and she says it's "the least and most pretentious night club in Los Angeles." Is that a good or bad thing? I'll leave it up to the reader. The cover varies, and it's 21 and up.



Friday

Danceman's Swing Lounge at 817 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood. (310) 479-1138: This is a really hip joint that features swing dancing lessons at 7:30 p.m. followed by great swing and big band tunes for the rest of the night. Doors open at 7 p.m., \$10 cover, boogie until 2 a.m., also no alcohol served here, which is always a plus if you like talking to quasi-intelligent, non-belligerent people.

Clockwork Orange at The Ruby at 7070 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood. (323) 462-7442: For your pleasure, three rooms of dancing, including totally 80's, trance, uplifting house, and electronic and alternative. Junior Melissa Cruz thinks that, "Clockwork is a place where everyone can go and meet a cross-section of Los Angelenos." This club is for those who want to dance all night and leave with your ears

Tuesday

Catch a movie at the Promenade, at the AMC, Santa Monica on Third Street. This theatre is great for a few reasons, one being that you get a discount if you show your student ID when you purchase your ticket. Also, this theatre has many screens, so you can always manage to find the movie you want at a convenient time.

Another great thing about this theatre is the location. You can shop, people-watch, get a henna tattoo, or eat before or after your movie. "Do check out the Promenade," second year student Jessica LaGrange says, "I love 3rd Street, especially all the street performers. It's a cheap hangout for poor college students!"

Wednesday

Magic 2000 at The Ruby at 7070 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood. (213) 363-0222: First of all, I love any club that is held at The Ruby. The venue is amazing with 3 rooms, a great sound system, and awesome security. On Magic Wednesdays, be prepared for over-stimulating lights and lasers and loud pumping bass beats.

The ambiance is that of a psychedelic rave with a taste of hip-hop jungle flavor. It's an all ages event, and the cover varies.*

*Flyers are available for this club in various newspapers and in all the shops along Melrose Avenue. These flyers can be anywhere from a few dollars off the original cover of the club to totally free admission! Do check them out!

SATURDAY

Arena at 6655 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. (323) 462-0714: I definitely suggest Saturday nights at the Arena if you want to spice up your night with some Latin music including salsa and cumbia. There is also hip-hop and old school offered on the second floor of this huge club. There is a really "cool" history behind the Arena, or so says the owner. It used to be an ice factory. With over 20,000 square feet of danceable space, you can dance all night long on either the first or second floor, each with different music, DJs and crowds. The Arena also hosts Gay/Lesbian dance nights. These nights appear sporadically throughout the month, so if you are interested call the establishment. 9 p.m.-4 a.m., \$10 cover...18 and over.

Florentine Gardens at 5951 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood. (323) 464-0706: This is THE place for you if you like dancing to Top 40, house, techno and hip-hop...and if you like well dressed guys. There IS a dress code. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$12 cover, and you MUST have a California ID to prove you are 18. The security there does not accept out of state licenses.

This Movie Will Make People Think!

By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer



With so many movies claiming to scare the hell out of you, Stigmata's claim in the trailer was that it would "scare the hell into you."

Starring Patricia Arquette and Gabriel Byrne, Stigmata tells the story of Frankie Paige (Arquette), an East Coast hairdresser who is afflicted with the stigmata, the marks of Christ. Byrne's character is a priest and a scientist. He discovers

that being a walking contradiction makes it difficult for him to do his job, which is to help the suffering Frankie Paige.

Without telling too much, the movie has a quite a bit to say about the Catholic Church. Director Rupert Wainwright does a fabulous job with the camera, capturing incredible angles and light. The story is well written, and very provocative. This movie will definitely make you think twice about religion.

Stigmata is rated R and lasts 102 minutes. I highly recommend it.

Attention Mount Students!!!

The MSMC Writers Series,
featuring acclaimed novelist
Francisco Goldman
(The Long Night of White Chickens and
The Ordinary Seaman.)

who will be reading from his latest works,
will be held on

**Monday, October 11,
at 8:00 pm
in the Art Gallery**

The reading is **free and open to the public.**

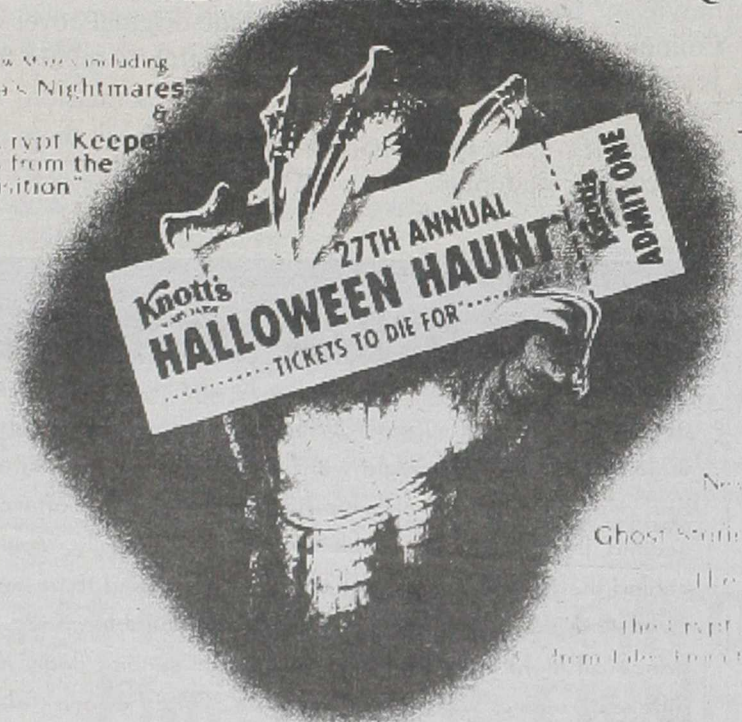
Invite your family and friends

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Brought to you by Jody Baral and Marcos McPeck Villatoro

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Knott's Haunt Line
General Info: (714) 220-5200
www.halloweenhaunt.com

The Freestyle Page (facing the
Athenian Ads page) is an open forum
for Mount students. Creative submis-
sions in any language will be accept-
ed. The Oracle reserves the right to
edit any submitted material.
For more information, call Joan at 310-954-4122.



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Like to take pictures?
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Meetings are held **Wednesday** evenings from
5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Student Activities Office
on **First Floor Humanities**.

See you at the documenting of history...
the Yearbook!

Award Nominations for Mount Heroes

By Brooke Hardcastle

Contributing Writer

I feel that Ana Negrete deserves to be recognized as the Student of the Month for August. Ana helped me out so much in August. My job was to plan Fall Orientation for the incoming students and Ana was my assistant. Ana did such a great job helping me with Orientation. She made all the signage for Orientation weekend, which took a good week. She made over 40 signs to assist incoming students and their parents to find their way around our campus.

Ana also ran any errands that I could not get to do myself. She helped me fold information and stuff over 600 envelopes that were being sent to incoming students and their families. Ana assisted me in training our Orientation Counselors by playing games, getting supplies and showing the Orientation Counselors what to do next.

During Orientation weekend, Ana was our "gopher." She ran and got whatever we needed if we had forgotten it. Ana and I were primarily stationed at the Check-In booth during Orientation. While we were working, I remembered I had forgotten a very important gift I was going to give my Orientation Counselors and Ana held down the fort while I ran to my room to get the gift.

Ana not only was my assistant, but she was the Office Assistant in the Student Activities Office here at the Mount. Ana managed to find time in our busy Orientation schedule to help out the Student Activities Program Assistant with folding over 1500 brochures to be sent out for Family Day to all the families of students here at the Mount. It took her two eight-hour days of folding to accomplish this task. Ana recovered the entire club and posting boards with butcher paper to prepare for the upcoming school year. She made several display boards for the Student Activities Office for promoting various events on campus in the fall.

Ana was truly an asset to the whole Mount community and to me. If it was not for her eagerness and willingness to help wherever needed, I do not think that my job would have been as easy as it was. She really did a lot of the little things and, as we know, it is the little things that add up.



What is an OTM?!



I'm sure you are wondering what these funny letters grouped together stand for. OTM stands for Of The Month. Anyone can be nominated for an Of The Month Award. It is easy! If you know someone who you think deserves some major recognition the following categories could be just the right one for recognition.

- Student
- Advisor
- E-Board Member
- NRHH Chapter
- Resident Assistant
- Spotlight
- Program
- NCC
- Community

For more information about OTM's contact Valerie Chavez, NRHH Chair at (310) 954-4471.

By Valerie Chavez

Contributing Writer

Jennie Jones, the NRHH Vice-Chair, not the talk show host, has shown unbelievable dedication this month of August. The executive board for RHA underwent drastic changes, due to the resignations of three board members before their training began. Luckily, Jennie was right there to help fill those empty spaces. It was not mandatory for her to attend the intense RHA Fall training, which requires thirteen hours a day for three days, but she was there through it all. As NRHH Chair, I simply suggested that it might be a good idea for her to stop in on one of the days of training, but she did more than that. Jennie made an outstanding effort to help RHA out in their time of need. She has filled the empty spaces on that executive board with her endless ideas, love for brainstorming and creative insights.

After training was over, there were still jobs that needed to be done before August was over. When shopping for RHA programs had to be done, Jennie was our driver and fellow bargain hunter. When all the bargain hunting was over, Jennie went back to her room and prepared the Carepacks for the RHA Give-Away. During Orientation, while still preparing for NRHH's first year at the Mount, Jennie continued helping RHA. She collected RHA fees, was a tour guide on the RHA bus tour, and participated in the RHA Give-Away.

It is a basic requirement that NRHH executive board members support RHA, but Jennie has gone above and beyond that requirement. As NRHH Chair, I have greatly appreciated her involvement with NRHH and cannot thank her enough for her help with RHA. Because of her outstanding effort and endless hard work this past month, Jennie Jones deserves to be recognized and rewarded.

By Sabrina Ward

Contributing Writer

Dr. Crowson is not only my biology professor and research advisor, but also my mentor and good friend. I was one of the two students chosen to do research with Dr. Crowson for the summer and she was always there when I needed her help. She helped me understand my research material, but even more, she helped me with more personal issues. For example, when my mother and I had a fight, Dr. Crowson would know automatically that something was wrong, just by the tone of my voice. She would pull me aside and say that if I ever needed advice or just to talk, she was there. She made me feel comfortable with going and talking to her. She gave great advice, too.

Dr. Crowson showed me that she wanted to get to know me, not only as a student, but as a person, too. She did this by working with me in the lab and remembering things that I said to her which were not related to our research. Dr. Crowson knows a lot of things that I like and dislike. For example, she knows what my favorite food is, who my favorite singer is, and she even knows that my favorite color is blue.

Dr. Crowson cares about the decisions I make in life and she lets me know this. When I was registering for classes in August, I told her that I was thinking about studying abroad one semester and she told me it would be a great opportunity. I told her that the only reason I would not be able to study abroad was because of financial reasons. I asked if she knew of any scholarships or loans students can get for the single purpose of studying abroad. She told me she didn't, but she would do some research on it and let me know.

After our meeting, I was walking out of her office and she stopped me. Dr. Crowson offered to help me in any way she could. She told me she was willing to invest whatever it took in me because she sees that I have potential for succeeding.

During the month of August, Dr. Crowson showed me what she shows all of her students: confidence in us all. She is able to teach her students in a way that touches them at the same time. Dr. Crowson is professional, approachable, personable and outstanding. It was in the month of August that Dr. Crowson showed me this side of her and that is why she deserves the Spotlight of the Month.

Ramen History Before College

By Rebekah Amos

The State News (Michigan State U.)

08/26/1999

(U-WIRE) EAST LANSING, Mich. -- When cooking ramen noodles, most people don't realize they're about to eat something that's centuries old.

Ramen noodles, made primarily of flour, water, salt, dough conditioner, seasonings and spices, are a Japanese modernization of a noodle that originated in China around 220 B.C. The goal was to adapt the noodle to better serve people with busy lives. According to an online project by The Hartford Courant, in 1957 the Japanese invented Instant Ramen, a convenient, inexpensive meal that was packaged in shiny plastic.

However, the rage didn't hit the United States until the '80s, when Americans became attracted to the virtually foul-proof preparation of the noodles.

The price of the noodles is also appealing: around \$.20 per package and usually sold in bulk at five or six packages for a dollar. The noodles have become a popular means of nourishment for students on the run.

This ready-made meal is relatively low in fat as well. Some containers produce just 12 grams of fat. However, there is quite a bit of sodium and preservatives (especially considering that ramen can be stored and is edible for up to a year). The noodles also run about 150-200 calories per package.

The popularity of ramen can be seen on the website of Nong Shim America, a ramen manufacturer (www.nongshim.com). The site shows

that approximately \$450 million worth of ramen was sold in 1997 (about 2.2 billion packages).

Some enjoy eating ramen raw, which Nong Shim America insists is completely safe. Others have gone above and beyond simply enjoying ramen as a quick meal, dry or not. The Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum in Yokohama, Japan, opened in 1994, is devoted entirely to the noodles so often enjoyed by college students around the country.

This ramen tribute also serves as part historical theme park and part highly specialized restaurant mall. Staying open until 11 p.m. for die-hard ramen fans, the museum often feeds late-night concertgoers who are returning from the nearby Yokohama Arena.

There have been cookbooks dedicated to hundreds of different ramen recipes, and some U.S. college students have created Web sites paying tribute to this instant meal. The word "ramen" typed in on any Web search engine will yield more than 6,000 sites to browse, with everything from favorite ramen recipes to the official ramen homepage.

Additionally, ramen is not just popular among the Asian community, as it once was in the United States. According to Consumer consumption by Nong Shim America, 30 percent of Asian-Americans, 36 percent of Hispanics, 22 percent of African-Americans and 12 percent of other populations consume ramen in a given year. These numbers are up almost 2 percent from 1995 to 1996.

Being fast, inexpensive and a tasty way to create a meal with little effort in a short period of time is exactly what makes ramen the perfect college meal.

A Sad State of Affairs

By Matt Berger

U-WIRE (DC BUREAU)

09/13/1999

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON—Only nine percent of young voters trust the federal government and members of the college-age generation are 30 percent less likely to vote than older Americans, according to a new survey released by Project Vote Smart (PVS), a non-partisan research group that surveys voters and politicians.

The study of people between the ages of 18 and 25 found only 26 percent said they paid a lot of attention to national government issues, as opposed to 45 percent for older respondents.

"Many people in my generation are saddled with credit card debt and school loans, and yet by refusing to participate in the voting process, we are blindly turning over complete control on these issues to institutions we don't trust to make decisions in our own best interests," said Kristina Saleh, a 22-year-old former college intern and current staff member at PVS.

About half of the respondents said they would definitely vote in the next presidential election, with another quarter saying they probably will.

"Some people have been very concerned about this," said Forrest

Maltzman, a professor of political science at George Washington University. "Organizations such as MTV have tried to increase voter turnout."

Faced with the issue of low voting rates among young people, Maltzman responds that it makes sense. "One of the impediments to voting is registering, and young people move more frequently."

The survey found young Americans rate the economy as the most important issue facing the country. Education and crime ranked second and third, respectively.

"My hunch is young voters vote for different reasons," Maltzman said. "In Minnesota, many young people who voted for Jesse Ventura would not have voted if he wasn't on the ballot."

Less than a year after the Monica Lewinsky scandal, moral concerns is not a top issue for younger Americans. The issue ranked eighth, behind poverty, foreign affairs, the environment and drugs.

Not surprisingly, young people are more likely to be getting their news from the Internet, the survey found. In fact, the medium was the most popular for young respondents.

Twenty-three percent of young respondents did not know Al Gore is the current vice president.

Subject: Fwd: Fwd: (No Subject)

>>> By Leah Kind
>>> The Daily Iowan (U. Iowa)
>>> 07/02/1999

>>> (U-WIRE) IOWA CITY, Iowa — Hours upon hours were spent, ink pots overturned, as one tried to make sense among the madness of long-hand diction. Corresponding with someone really meant something, as the mail was carted mainly by folks known as "letter carriers," and getting a letter to someone took just a tad longer than it takes to get approved for a student loan.

>>> But now, thanks to the technological "advancements" in computers, people are able to correspond with anyone and everyone who has an "electronic address," whatever that may be. The madness of e-mail usually takes strong hold when people go to college, and everyone who wishes is given an "electronic mail account." The university officials tell you that your mail and correspondence is always "private" and "personal," when really the passwords are all in a file folder buried under a pile of dirty laundry in the closet of some guy named "Ted."

>>> So e-mail is a common-enough thing in college. And some students take this easy mail access to extremes. I have gathered such information after months and months of careful and thorough investigative journalism, interviewing hundreds of students and then meticulously compiling my data. None of this information, naturally, comes from any first-hand knowledge of being an e-mail junkie.

>>> Nay, for it was only recently that I discovered that I even had an e-mail account, let alone the power to write other people!

>>> Right, ahem; anyway, it is quite obvious that e-mail has quite the death grip on much of the student population. The obsessive checking and rechecking of e-mail that I — I mean, the anonymous test group — exhibit can only be termed as ridiculous. Really people, c'mon! I just got new messages three minutes ago! How on earth could anyone write me back! Oh, my. Of course, when saying "I," I'm referring to all those anonymous hordes. Let me just

check my intrepid reporter's notebook (back of Wendy's napkin) for the details.

Let's face it, e-mail does make things a lot easier and hassle-free. How many students would have been forced to actually get up and talk to a professor or TA instead of simply logging on and typing, "Dear so-and-so: Am feeling very ill, and therefore I will be unable to attend Any class 102. Would it be possible for me to pick up the tests/papers/cadaver assignment that I might have missed in this, my gravest hour?"

So many precious student-hours might have been wasted in the attempt to first, remember their prof's name, and then the department, and find them and cough violently and maybe spit up some blood. Thank God for e-mail.

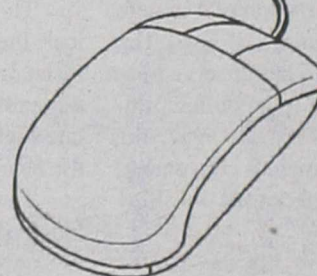
Of course, e-mail does come with its downfalls. The entire concept of cute "forwards" would never have existed if e-mail had not sauntered onto the scene. No one, even the slightly deranged, would spend their time hand copying 50 of the same messages to her or his best friends in order to get 50 cents for a starving Istanbul child.

Without e-mail, you might never know why "Trick or Treating is Better than Sex (fwd)" or assorted useless facts such as "banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour," or "an alligator cannot stick its tongue out." Without e-mail, you'd never get to "scroll down" and "keep on going" to see thousands of tiny dashes and lines (someone actually sat there and made that forward!) zig and zag in intricate patterns and finally "give you good luck," but only if you "made a wish!" "Did you make it?" Arghhh!!

But, as I said, I know not any of these problems, as my life is e-mail free, as anyone would tell you. All of my inside information comes from sad individuals whose life at school is apparently dominated by a machine. People go out of their way to compose e-mail and become mildly to seriously offended if others drop out of the regular correspondence. These are sad, moronic people. I sure do pity them.

How To Write a Paper (The College Way)

1. Sit in a straight, comfortable chair in a well-lighted place with plenty of freshly sharpened pencils.
2. Check your email.
3. Read over the assignment carefully, to make certain you understand it.
4. Walk down to the vending machines and buy some coffee to help you concentrate.
5. Check your email.
6. Stop off at another floor, on the way back and visit with your friend from class. If your friend hasn't started the paper yet either, you can both walk to McDonald's and buy a hamburger to help you concentrate.
7. Check your email.
8. You know, you haven't written to that kid you met at camp since fourth grade. You'd better write that letter now and get it out of the way so you can concentrate.
9. Look at your teeth in the bathroom mirror.
10. Check your email.
11. Rearrange all your CDs into alphabetical order.
12. Phone your friend on the other floor and ask if she's started writing yet. Exchange derogatory remarks about your teacher, the course, the college, the world at large.
13. Check your email.
14. Catch the last hour of Soul Brother of Kung Fu.
15. Check your email.
16. Sit down and do some serious thinking about your plans for the future.
17. Check your email.
18. Lie face down on the floor and moan.
19. Check your email.
20. Type the paper, and while you're at it, check your email.
21. Complain to everyone that you didn't get any sleep because you had to write that darn paper.



Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round
Or listened to the rain slapping on the ground?

Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight
Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?

You better slow down. Don't dance so fast
Time is short. The music won't last

Do you run through each day on the fly
When you ask "How are you?" do you hear the reply?

When the day is done, do you lie in your bed
With the next hundred chores running through your head?

You'd better slow down. Don't dance so fast
Time is short. The music won't last

Slow Dance



Ever told your child, We'll do it tomorrow
And in your haste, not see his sorrow?

Ever lost touch, Let a good friendship die
Cause you never had time to call and say "Hi"?

You'd better slow down. Don't dance so fast
Time is short The music won't last

When you run so fast to get somewhere
You miss half the fun of getting there.

When you worry and hurry through your day;
It is like an unopened gift.... Thrown away...

Life is not a race. Do take it slower.
Hear the music...before the song is over.

The Oracle

Mount St. Mary's College
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Archives
MSMC

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MSMC

Doheny Forms Dance Team

By Cherie Hicks
Staff Writer

Here at the Mount, students are encouraged to "actualize their gifts and talents" (from the MSMC Mission Statement).

The "college experience" involves more than classes, papers and reaching academic goals in preparation for a vague future. It is not complete without involvement in a variety of extracurricular activities.

Second year students, Jacqueline Sanz and Lizette Godinez, know how beneficial dance can be towards the physical and mental development of an individual.

With the help of Maria Lyons, Director of Student Activities, these young ladies have been able to start a dance team on the Doheny Campus.

"Our main goal is to give the girls something to enjoy

their stay here at MSMC," says Godinez, one of the captains.

Signs announcing tryouts were posted throughout the campus. Eighteen of thirty-five girls who tried out in the Donahue Center two weeks ago made the team. There will be a second tryout due to the overwhelming response.

The captains, Sanz and Godinez, say they are not looking for a set number of girls. When selecting members for the dance team they look for those individuals who are dedicated, willing, and who have dance ability.

The 15-minute tryout dance routine is composed of drill, cheer, jazz, and some ballet. Once the team has been established, they are expected to perform for the college. Aside from school performances, the dance team will perform at the Rose Bowl, Disney Land, Magic Mountain and Knotts Berry Farm.

"We plan to compete in November, once our routine is polished," says Godinez.

The practice schedule is very demanding. During the week of tryouts the girls would practice five days a week from 8-10:00 p.m. Many of them would stay until 12:00 to get in the extra practice time.

"I've learned that I have to manage my time well if I want to become involved in this dance team," remarks Sandra Gariby.

Godinez says that the practice schedule will change after tryouts.

"We enforce good grades, and expect everyone to keep their grades up if they want to participate," say Sanz and Godinez.

We can expect to see a performance from the dance team around November. Everyone is excited, and is anticipating seeing them perform.

Athenian Day Triumphs



Brianne Williams, The Oracle

Ten teams ferociously competed for recognition as this year's number one team at the Athenian Day games on Saturday, October 2, 1999. The Brady Bats (seen here) won the Sportsmanship Award for their spirit and encouragement. The first place prize of \$150 went to Kolohe Girls from the Hawaiian Club. The Fitness Center's own Wonder Women won second, valued at \$75.

Elevator Permits Cause Concern

By Dania Sutton
Copy Editor

The elevators on the Chalon campus have been a topic of discussion for years. Many students opt to take the stairs to avoid any problems, which are few and far between, but significant enough to be remembered.

Students using the antiquated machinery have often been alarmed to find the displayed permits seem to be expired. The permit is clearly dated with the date of the past inspection, which is often between 1994 and 1995. The line that follows the date states that the permit "expires" in one year.

However, according to Gina Orozco, Project Coordinator at the Chalon Physical Plant, none of the permits have expired. Furthermore, students have nothing to fear as the elevators are considered to be safe.

"We don't want anything bad to happen to the students. We would shut them down if we felt that they were unsafe."

In fact, the Mount has a contract with Millar Elevator Company to ensure the safety of daily riders. The elevators are inspected by Millar each month to ensure they are safe. This inspection is private and has nothing to do with the renewal process, which is handled completely by the Los Angeles Building and Safety Department.

Orozco says the one elevator Millar is called out for most is located in Carondelet. It is the source of much noise and worry. Millar comes out when needed to check the elevator. However, this should not cause too much alarm.

"They are machines, old and bound to make weird noises," Orozco assures us.

The question that remains is why are permits which appear to be expired displayed in the elevators? The answer lies in the fact that the licensing agency, LA Building and Safety, is backlogged and unable to come out and do yearly inspections. Orozco assures us that this is normal.

She also told us that the school is not responsible for maintaining the current licensing permits. That is up to the city. The decision to inspect the elevators and make sure they operate within the required guidelines rests completely with the city. What the Physical Plant is responsible for is the safety of students and staff. This is why they have the contract with Millar.

Some Mount students, however, are not comfortable with the fact that the displayed permits do not appear to be current.

According to Jennifer McNamara, a third year student, the college should make more of an effort to push for the inspections.

"It seems the administration is just shifting responsibility. Even though the college does not issue permits, it is not an excuse. In the end, when something goes wrong, to one of us, we will hold the school responsible."

McNamara feels students are forced to consider their own safety. She does not trust the administration's insistence that they are safe.

However, Orozco assures us the elevators are safe. Millar does periodic check-ups and inspections. She stressed the fact that the Physical Plant and Millar do not want anyone to get hurt.

"They do very thorough inspections. If they didn't, they'd get sued if someone got hurt."

Around the World

"The evidence we have is clear—70 at least are dead," said Andy Trotter, deputy assistant police commissioner. "There may well be more.... However, we do not believe, given the devastation caused by the fire, that it will be possible to recover any more bodies from the train."

A London train wreck between a passenger train and a commuter train Tuesday left 26 confirmed dead and over 70 people missing. Distraught friends and family watch reports in horror, hoping their loved ones escaped the wreckage.

A preliminary investigation suggests the smaller train ran a red light and was hit nearly head-on. It is reported that eight other trains have run red lights at the same spot since 1993.

Rail safety campaigners suggest it may have been difficult for the driver of the smaller train to see the red light, which may have been obscured by other trackside equipment.

--Taken from www.msnbc.com.

Devastating floods in Central

America have killed more than three dozen people and have sent more than 100,000 to shelters. Floods have raged throughout the region for three weeks now.

Los Angeles Unified School District voted Tuesday to change the grading system from the A-F letter grades to a 4 to 1 system in all elementary schools.

The letter grade system is charged with being too vague. The average of "C" does not adequately show student progress. The new system is more precise and will be able to measure academic progress more accurately.

The new system is also said to adhere more closely to state standards for grading systems. Under this system, children will be rated on their achievement, from four being "exceeds standards" to one being "not proficient." Two is "partially proficient" and 3 is "meets standards." The change represents an important step in the de-emphasizing of letter grade values.

--Taken from www.latimes.com

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Do you like Tori Amos? Alanis Morissette? Check out the review on their latest co-headlined concert.

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Got a big date? Need quick advice? Check out beauty and makeup tips from the Diva.

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Philosophy Club Prints Newsletter

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

Do you like to meet new and interesting people? Then the Philosophy Club would probably be of interest to you. Dr. Wanda Teays and Martin Young came up with the idea from previous experiences with universities at which they taught or attended.

Dr. Teays, along with Chris Blakey, the faculty sponsor, organized and planned exciting events for the club this year. The purpose is to get as many students, whether or not they are majors or minors in the field, to participate.

A newsletter was started this year called *The Philosopher's Stone*. It is set to be published once a semester by club members and faculty staff. They are open to the submission of any articles, essays, artwork, news briefs, or several other forms of material pertaining to philosophy. If enough material is submitted, the newsletter will be published more often.

Throughout the upcoming year, many activities are planned for the club. Viewing the television show *Everybody Loves Raymond* is one fantastic event planned. Jeremy Stevens, a comedy writer for the show, will talk about the type of ethical humor he writes and why he feels the need to write that type of humor.

Several trips to the Getty museum are also planned. There will be a guest speaker discussing ethics at the Getty on November 11. There is another Getty lecture planned for the spring.

There will also be a speaker presenting a lecture on ethics to various philosophy classes. Speakers at the UCLA libraries will also be a main emphasis of the club.

Many other events are planned, including a film night and a visit to a sound effects studio. The club is open to any ideas from members and future members regarding the activities and guest speakers they present. As Dr. Teays commented, "people's own concerns and interests may be addressed."

This club is focused on the reflection of various ideas and opinions. It welcomes diverse lives and interests.

The faculty sponsors are open to discussing anything that is important or interesting to students. It is meant to bring about a sense of community. They believe the club will stir interesting questions and thought-provoking ideas.

Even if you are not a philosophy major, you may want to look into this club. It could bring issues to the classroom, making Mount courses more interesting as a whole.

"It will bring people together that may otherwise not meet each other," says Dr. Teays.

If you are a philosophy major or minor, the club is designed to give you a chance to see some of your teachers outside of the classroom, which helps make them seem more real...more human. It will also help you network with various people from several different backgrounds.

Many majors can benefit from the study of philosophy. Political Science, Journalism, Computer Science, Teaching and Ministry

are just a few majors that can be connected.

Even if your major does not directly relate to philosophy, club activities as well as actual philosophy courses can prove to be not only enjoyable, but beneficial.

Philosophy is part of the quality of life. It goes into depth in all issues imaginable. It helps people get involved and exposes new ideas. This club gives students a "deep feeling of justice...and members can apply what is learned to their daily life," says Dr. Teays.

Last year, several students and faculty participated in the Philosophy Club. Adriana Serrano and Summer Cervantez had a chance to attend a one week workshop at the Rutgers University Summer Institute in Philosophy for Minority Students.

There was also a high amount of faculty involvement. Along with Dr. Teays, Dr. Paul Green, Dr. Blakey, Dr. Michelle Dumont and professors Darin Dockstader, Donna Quesada, Jim Browder, Young and Dennis Brandon participated in the Philosophy Club. Joining them this year are professors Carol Dingman, Steve Bie, and Carla Zubiate. They all look forward to seeing many new faces at future club meetings.

In addition to all the academic benefits, this club is a great place to get career and graduate school advice from knowledgeable faculty. By setting no yearly dues, it is open to all walks of life. Meetings are held on both Chalon and Doheny. The first meeting provided goodies, raffles and philosophy stones. As the club flyer stated, "You don't have to be a Philosophy major or minor to be interested in ideas and imagination."

Mount News in Brief

Who Says Mount Girls Can't Party?

Mark your calendars!! The Muses and AACW are co-sponsoring the big Halloween Dance with 92.3 The Beat!

DJ's from the station will rock the campus center on Friday October 29th from 8pm-12 midnight.

Costumes are not mandatory. However, there will be prizes for the most original and most outrageous costumes. There will be food, drinks, raffles with cool prizes, and tons of people. So invite your friends from off-campus, all are welcome.

The cost is \$5 pre-sale for everyone, \$7 at the door for Mount students (bring your ID card), and \$8 at the door for anyone else. You can purchase tickets starting the week of October 11th in the foyer of the Little Theatre, so keep an eye out.

For more information or to reserve tickets, call Christine at 310-954-4513 or Laura at (213)218-7899. See you there!

Congratulations to **Ana Negrete**, August's Student of the Month. Her nomination for the "Of the Month" won regionally and will go on to compete for the national Student of the Month for August.

Brooke Hardcastle also deserves recognition for writing the winning OTM. For more information or to submit a nomination, contact a member of RHA or NRHH.

The college will be upgrading the student database system. The computers will be down from Thursday, October 21 to Sunday, October 24. The Admissions, Student Financing, Registrar's and Business Offices will be unable to conduct normal business on these dates.

Please plan ahead. If you need transcripts, grades, check processing or any other services that may be provided by these offices, please plan to conduct your business either before or after the conversion weekend.

The system is being upgraded for a number of reasons. "The software provider will no longer provide technical support for our version after December of 2000," according to Dr. Mari Wadsworth of Student Affairs.

Students need not be concerned about the possibility of data being lost due to the conversion. Administrators held a mock conversion to test the system. It seemed to go very well. In addition to the mock conversion, many preparations have been made to ensure a smooth transition.

"We are confident it will work," says Dr. Wadsworth.

Other reasons for the upgrade include increased accuracy, better options for the future (such as web-based registration) and centralized data. Under the old system, the data is not centralized. If you change your address in the Registrar's Office, it does not change anywhere else. Under the new system, all the student data will be centralized and linked.

THE ORACLE

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Chalon Cafeteria Concerns: Administration's Answers

By Joan Fletcher

Editor

The buzz around the Chalon campus is all about the cafeteria's "no food out of the dining hall" policy. Students are angered that the administration would make such a big decision without consulting them first.

Mary Grogan, the Director of Food Services, defends the cafeteria, saying the policy was not created by the cafeteria staff. According to Dr. Mari Wadsworth, the administration created this policy in response to a variety of problems.

The cost of lost china, silverware and trays was proving to be too expensive. They were faced with a tough decision. They could either raise room and board to cover the additional costs, or implement a new program which would avoid the losses.

Other reasons had to do with health concerns. Students would leave left over food in the lounge, kitchenettes or in their rooms. It would spoil and cause unpleasant smells as well as invite rodents into the halls.

Administration also felt the students were missing an important aspect of college social life. They wanted to encourage students to sit down and eat as a community.

Much thought was put into the decision. According to Grogan, the question was posed: Would the cafeteria be able to feed students in the cafeteria without taking food out?

After conducting a three weeks of research, counting students coming into the cafeteria through the scanning of their cards, a conclusion was reached. The cafeteria could accommodate all the students.

Administrators were also quick to point out that other colleges with all-you-can-eat board plans normally have similar policies. They also emphasized that the policy was not implemented to punish students, but to help them.

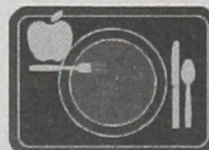
Students are determined to force the college to make some changes in the policy or to drop it altogether. However, Dr. Wadsworth indicated that the policy is not up for discussion.

"This is the policy. It is not to be rescinded. We will try to address individual issues. If students have a problem due to class schedules, they can bring their schedule to Mary Grogan to work something out.

"If the students just don't want to eat in the dining room, that is their choice. If students address specific issues, we can find a solution," says Wadsworth.

Despite administration's attempts to find ways to make the transition easier for students, there are many who are still unhappy with the policy. They insist that administration hears their opinion and compromises according to their liking.

To this, Grogan responds, "Every time a new policy is instituted anywhere, you're going to have people that like it and others that don't."



The Benefits and Dangers of Caller I.D.

Pro: I.D. Provides Security Con: Misdials Result in Harassment

By Dania Sutton

Copy Editor

Since June 1, 1996 when California became the final state to allow its telephone companies to allow companies to use the Caller ID service, this tool has become not the annoyance or hindrance that critics claim, but a blessing from which everyone benefits.

Caller ID is a service provided through phone companies to give customers a chance to view the number of the person calling before they answer the phone.

In lieu of the answering machine, it gives those who are being called the opportunity to answer or not answer incoming calls from those they do not wish to speak. For example, using Caller ID, people can dodge annoying bill collectors.

In addition, it finally puts to rest those rude and disturbing telephone calls from disgusting heavy-breathers and sexual degenerates.

Let's consider this. A person obtains your number and makes sexually harassing phone calls to you on a daily basis.

Over time, these calls become frightening, with threats of violence. Using Caller ID would not only help you discover the perpetrator, but would also aid the police in

apprehending the suspect.

Even better, this small piece of information would prove to be valuable evidence in court to not only stop the harassing phone calls, but to also help prevent other potential victims. In essence, Caller ID allows citizens to provide a service to the community by stopping sexual crimes.

Of course critics will cry out that this service is not needed because it presents a safety issue in that your number will be given to those you don't know or even to those who may abuse the information.

To those critics who insist upon crying out, the answer is simple. Take the opportunity to block Caller ID from your phone. All it takes is a simple phone call to your local telephone company and a request for Call Blocking.

It is obvious that Caller ID may be a hindrance to some (which can easily be avoided), but, for the most part, having the service may ultimately change whom we choose to communicate with.



By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer

No one can say they've never dialed a wrong number. Usually the voice on the other line, which you expect to be your best friend but turns out to be a forty-something woman with a smoker's cough, accepts your apology in a gruff, yet civil manner. But there are always the accidental calls that end with obscenities and a threat of police intervention.

It is at these times that Caller ID plays an integral role. The latter happened to me less than two weeks ago. I was studying late at a friend's house and arrived home at about 12:30 in the morning. One of my best friends from New York had called four times and left messages with an urgent plea of, "Call me as soon as you get this message, something happened to Ana."

Now Ana is our very pregnant friend who is very overdue, and the worst scenario crossed my mind. What if she went into labor and took a cab to the hospital, but the driver took a wrong turn and she ended up in Southern Florida, hundreds of miles away from her Lamaze coach? I became hysterical and fumbled for my cordless phone that was hidden underneath a pile of dirty clothes, six textbooks, and a half-eaten muffin.

When I finally found the elusive black phone, the battery turned out to be dead. So I dug through a box to find my back-up phone. At this point my hands were shaking and I could hardly breathe. I finally unearthed the phone and plugged it in. I dialed the number as fast as I could. Unfortunately, I was too fast.

"Hello? Who the hell is this? Why are you

calling me at this hour Julie Purr-zyke-ee?" I was petrified. Who was this voice and how did they know my name?

"Th, ih, is Laura there...puh, puh, please?" I could barely get the words out I was so nervous about Ana.

"Listen little girl, if you want to make prank phone calls in the middle of the night, you better [expletive] know who you're calling and hope to [expletive] God that they don't have Caller ID."

I was furious! All I did was dial one number off, and some Long Island jerk with terrible grammar chastises me via Alexander Graham Bell. I tried to explain that in the midst of dialing 10-10-32-whatever, then the area code, and then the number, I must've accidentally phoned him. He didn't even try to sympathize. At that point I forgot about Ana and Laura and slammed the phone down. Less than a minute later the phone rang, and the caller hung up.

During the past week I received a total of 18 hang-ups from the hours of 1 a.m. to 4 a.m. each morning. This mind-manipulation happened all because of Caller ID. This man has my phone number forever now because he has a little machine that tells him who calls him and what number they are calling from. It's ridiculous how lazy people are today! Not only do we have drive-through coffee bars and grocery shopping on the Internet, but we have a little box that can tell us who is calling us just so we don't have to talk to someone if we don't want to.

What happened to the element of surprise? What happened to picking up the phone and discovering it's your playmate from elementary school that found your name in the phone book? And of course, how can we ever make prank calls without being reprimanded for doing so? (Ana and her healthy baby girl are doing great, by the way. She went into labor that night, and made it to the hospital with no shortcuts through Florida.)

Turning Back the Biological Clock: Ovarian Transplants

By Lauren Chilstrom

Staff Writer

Earlier this month, Dr. Kutluk Oktay and Professor Roger Gosden performed the first ovarian tissue transplant. The recipient, 30-year-old Margaret Lloyd-Hart, was a dancer whose ovaries had been removed for medical reasons, then frozen in hopes of someday having them reimplanted.

Though the doctors deny the obvious ethical implications of this groundbreaking operation, you can almost hear the biological clocks of many post-menopausal women revving up for a second chance at fertility.

According to Dr. Oktay, this procedure is not meant to serve as a "menopause reverse situation," but is geared toward younger cancer patients whose eggs would be otherwise destroyed by chemotherapy. Dr. Oktay believes that there are no ethical questions associated with this discovery because the body would reject ovarian tissue from other women.

What Dr. Oktay fails to acknowledge is that he will not be able to control this technology forever. If he is like most researchers, he is anxious to finish his study and have his findings published in medical journals. It is only a matter of time before women all over the world will be turning to their doctors asking for this seeming medical miracle. Young career-oriented women are going to be lining up at their doctor's office so that they might delay having children until their career will allow it, which could be well into their 40's and 50's, might I add.

Is every doctor going to refuse to implant a post-menopausal patient's own ovarian tissue when she wants to conceive late in life? Of course not, which brings us to the wealth of ethical and social implications stemming from this technology.

Among the obvious social problems has to be women having children far after their natural reproductive years. For example, a woman, thanks to this new technology is able to have a child at age 55. At

the time when many women are going to visit their grandchildren, this woman will have to worry about running after a toddler when her energy level just isn't what it used to be.

When the child enters elementary school, this woman (and her husband for that matter), who should be contemplating retirement, is having to worry about saving for her child's college education. When the child graduates from high school, their mother will be 73 years old. Chances are, this woman may not even live to see her child graduate from college.

Am I the only person who sees something wrong with this picture? Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, but I think that nature intended for women to have children at a certain time in their lives. If they miss the opportunity because something else in their life had higher priority, so be it. Women have been having careers and children for a long time, so why choose one or the other. As the product of working parents, I don't resent my parents for having me when they did. They did what they had to do and I don't think that I'm any worse off for it.

I hope that in the future these women will think long and hard about the children they want to bring into the world so late in life. Do they really want their child to grow up with elderly parents who can hardly keep up with them? How old will their children be before the parents themselves need care? Who would take care of the children should something happen to the parents? These are all things that could deeply affect the life of a young child.

Please don't misunderstand me. I'm not against this treatment option for younger women who have no other option, due to cancer or other medical reasons. However, it concerns me that there is a possibility of the treatment being used for a purpose not originally intended.

If this treatment is not watched and administered carefully only to qualified patients, there will be deep social and ethical ramifications that our society must be prepared to deal with.

Editorial: Maturity

Strolling through the halls one day, I heard a group of students talking about an article published in a recent *Oracle*. The comments they made about the writer and the opinion taken were intolerant and immature. They even went as far as to say that the writer should not have even expressed her opinion.

Is this really the way the student population feels? Should the minority opinion be suppressed because most people don't agree with it? If that is our mentality, we are a degenerate people. The Abolition Movement as well as various other landmark events in human history started out as minority movements. Minority opinions bring about new ideas and change. If we do not allow dissenting opinions, our views tend to stagnate and follow the "majority."

If the majority is a group of radical racist elitists who believe in Naziism, should we blindly follow them, not saying a word against them? The same goes for any situation. If students disagree with a policy or an opinion, they should never attack the student who opposes the popular opinion. These are the compromisers or the free-thinkers who initiate change. They should not be discouraged or told not to express their opinion.

The First Amendment Rights which guarantee freedom of speech and freedom of press were instituted to protect the minority opinion, not the majority. If most people believe that the decision is right, there is not likely to be a problem. It is probable that the leaders of the society will agree with the majority, if not for personal reasons, for political. It is the minority opinion that must be protected.

Considering how important minority opinions are, I am surprised more Mount students do not support the rights of their fellow students to express their opinion openly. You may not agree with the opinion and you may not even want to hear it, but you should not be allowed to harass a person for expressing an opinion contrary to the popular view.

Traditionally, college has been a time to explore yourself and express your opinions openly. Berkeley has the Soap Box. We have the *Oracle*. If you disagree with a person's opinion, the mature thing to do is to climb upon that Soap Box or write a countering article rather than criticize the writer openly and shamelessly. It is not appropriate to approach the writer with negativity and rude comments.

Please, Mount students, find it within yourself to find the maturity we should all have by now and read responsibly.

CSJ Profile: Another Side of Sr. Mary

By **Connie Moreno**
Doheny Editor

Traveling, reading British murder mysteries, watching baseball and college football are some of the things Sr. Mary Williams enjoys when she has any free time.

I spoke with Sr. Mary and found she is much more than the person that returns your essays filled with pencil marks. She is a very interesting individual, open minded, very independent and self-assured.

Mary Williams first saw the light of day in the tiny town of Pascal in Washington. Her parents were writers for the newspaper her father owned. Their three children all followed in their footsteps. Sr. Mary became an English professor, her brother a journalist and her sister is in public relations.

"I admire them because they have been able to form great families," she smiled.

Sr. Mary grew up in a very religious home. Her mother was a strong Irish Catholic and her father became a Catholic when they started growing up.

Sr. Mary recalls, "the Catholic community really stuck together because we were the minority. It was more of a Protestant town."

She went to public school until she was a junior and then went off to a Catholic boarding school in Spokane. From there, Sr. Mary went to a Catholic college, St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Of this experience Sr. Mary says, "it was scary going away from home but my sister was there too, so it wasn't so bad."

Many people believe that becoming a sister is an easy decision that merely comes to you, but that is not the case of Sr. Mary. She says she had a hard time deciding and wasn't sure

until two years after graduating from college.

"This is a type of decision that you



Sister Mary Williams is the head of the English Department. She is shown here helping a student after an English class.

can't make by sitting there and thinking, you have to be touched by God and recognize his calling," said Sr. Mary.

Before she became a sister, she taught high school and thought about marriage like other girls. She also had the chance to travel. She went to a French college for a year and she hasn't stopped going to Europe since. She has also visited England along with Dr. Kidd and students from the Weekend College.

"I had a ball. We went to London and Stratford. We saw a couple of Shakespeare plays. It was great!"

When she speaks about her life as a sister, a warm smile always crosses her face. Since she entered the convent in 1954, when she was 24, she says she felt comfortable and knew she had made the right decision.

When asked about the best and worst aspects of life in community, she reflected for a minute and said, "I am not sure if there is a best and worst. No life is totally happy. I really like the love and support the community gives me. I like knowing that I put in my

own ore to make a difference."

Sr. Mary is very firm in her beliefs.

When Vatican II happened she said she "rethought many assumptions," but never stopped believing. Not even the turbulent sixties, which she experienced first hand doing her doctoral studies at Stanford, could shake her.

On the contrary, she recalls this time as "exciting." I asked if it was hard being a Catholic during this time and she firmly said "I didn't question my faith but rather the social structures and different life styles. It was a very formative period for me. I learned a whole lot."

She was also supportive of the feminist movement. "Sisters have always been in leadership positions. The college I went to was founded in 1905 by a sister. They've had opportunities that other women did not have so I supported them all the way."

She says she admires a woman who is independent and makes a life for herself. When asked if she was independent, she smiled "oh yes, very much, I don't know if totally, but I am very independent, I was brought up that way."

What she likes most about the Mount is her constant contact with young people. "I like to see them mature and grow. I just like people." Once again, the smile appears on her face.

Sr. Mary admires her parents and the leadership of the college. "I admire people who work for the good of a community, not just for themselves."

Giving some words of advice for the Mount community, Sr. Mary commented that "the Mount has a great future and we have some outstanding men and women here. I hope to hold on to the vision that makes us so great and all the things connected with our mission."

Mount History: Doheny Mansion

By **Vianney Vasquez**

Staff Writer

It stands there, silent and mysterious, the valuable jewel our college is privileged to claim as its own. It is the Doheny Mansion. Taking its name from its former owners, the Mansion is a symbol of a glorious age past. Sister Aline Marie Gerber, the caretaker, explains some of its mystery, saying "It was the formal home of Estelle Doheny and Edward L. Doheny."

This beautiful work of art was built in 1898 for the Posey Family. At the time the Mansion was referred to as, "Mrs. Posey's Pink House" for her attachment to the rosy color. It would not be called that for long. In 1901, Mrs. Posey's cherished Mansion was sold to the Dohenys for approximately \$150,000. From that point on, it has been commonly referred to as "The Doheny Mansion."

When the Dohenys moved in, they decided to expand their new home. One of the first additions was a large driveway and the room which arches over it. Doheny students now walk under that same room on their way to class. Other significant additions included a chapel on the third floor, and the Pompeian Room in the back of the quaint house.

The Pompeian Room is one of the most breathtaking places in the Mansion. When the Dohenys first moved in, this area of the house was merely an open tower. Desiring a house which could reflect their great wealth in style and beauty, Mr. and Mrs. Doheny had to create something more extravagant.

To begin their renovation, they enclosed the tower and created a glass dome. Louie C. Tiffany, of the famous Tiffany jewelers, exclusively designed this dome that is made of Tiffany glass. They also covered the entire room with Siena marble and finely adorned the walls with pure gold. By the time the room was complete, it appeared to have been pulled out of King Louis XIV's Versailles.

The Pompeian Room served many purposes for the Doheny family. This finely decorated room was often used for the many important social functions in which they hosted La crème de la crème. Interestingly, Sister Aline tells that Mrs. Doheny also used the room as the meeting place for The Ladies of Charity. She says, "There are plugs all around the Pompeian Room where the ladies plugged their sewing machines and sewed clothes for the church and the poor."

Mrs. Doheny, the final living member of the family, died a few decades ago. Amazingly, one century later, this beautiful wonder sits in the heart of our Doheny Campus, just as dazzling as it was when the Dohenys resided in it. It is now more of a museum. Many people visit it throughout the year to admire its beauty, but not everyone is always pleased. Sister Aline once caught two young boys saying "What is the excitement all about? It is just a bunch of old furniture."

Aside from being a home for some lucky sisters and now a few quiet offices, the Mansion used for Mount functions, alum weddings, concerts, and other special occasions. The college also allows various organizations to use the Mansion for special occasions.

The Mansion was declared a historical sight of the City of Los Angeles...and it belongs to us. We have the privilege to venture into this beauty and ask Sister Aline for a personal tour whenever we please. Only we can appreciate, "Monument 30" every day.



Correction: Ned Doheny was the victim of a double-murder. The Oracle apologizes for any confusion caused by this misprint.

From My Major... The Trials of a Bio Major

By **Lauren Chilstrom**

Page Editor

"So what do you want to be when you grow up?" For some, this question is the source of major anxiety. Often, this is because they simply don't have an answer. Personally, I've never had a problem coming up with an answer because, for as long as I can remember, the answer has always been the same: "I'm going to be a doctor."

So, it's probably no surprise that currently I am a second-year biology major, aspiring for the day when UCLA will come to beg me to attend their medical school. However, while I was sitting in BIO 1A daydreaming about scalpels and scrubs, I never really took the time to imagine just what exactly it was going to take to get me to that academic Promised Land.

The first dose of reality came during spring semester of last year in Sr. Annette's Honors Biology Lab. Besides covering the basics of bioethics and journal reading, Sr. Annette introduced us to what medical schools really look for in their applicants. Apparently, there's more to it than just good grades and good MCAT scores.

There is the hundreds of volunteer hours to put in at the hospital, the summers devoted to research off-campus and the many semesters (at least three) of research to do on-campus.

If at first you feel a bit overwhelmed by all of this, you're not alone. I felt like I should have started preparing for medical school back in junior high! So I did what any other college student in my position would have done...I didn't give it another thought. I went along with my life, believing that all of this would just work itself out with minimal effort on my part.

However, this summer, I was able to live the medical school application process vicariously through my boyfriend, Kevin. He spent hours on his computer filling out the endless AMCAS application on CD-ROM. The AMCAS application is a universal application that is sent to the medical schools of your choice. Soon after came the secondary applications, with more questions to answer and more money to send.

They asked questions like "how many hours have you spent as a volunteer," followed by boxes labeled "100 or less," "200," "300," and "400 or more." My personal favorite was "what have you done during the school year that was not for money or college credit?"

Witnessing this process helped me realize just how much I really have to do to become a competitive medical school applicant. I've assumed a slightly more active role by volunteering at Loma Linda Children's Hospital, applying for summer research and enrolling in Sr. Annette's research lab here on campus.

If the prospect of having to experience any of the above makes you a bit queasy, have no fear! There are many other things that can be done with a degree in biology. For example, if you think that finding the cure for cancer or any number of other diseases sounds appealing, a career in biomedical research could be just what you're looking for.

There are also many opportunities to use your skills as a teacher or with a pharmaceutical company. You can also find yourself employed in the field of research, coming up with new "wonder drugs."

If you do decide to major in biology, given the plethora of opportunities before you, the next time someone asks you "So, what do you want to be when you grow up?" you might just be able to give them something cooler than "Huh?"



The Dangers of Drinking at Frats

By Millicent Ongaco

Contributing Writer

Have you ever woke disoriented and groggy, not knowing where you are? A rush of fear and panic suddenly emerge as you struggle to fight the uncertainty. The struggle to overcome the doubt leaves as your surroundings become more and more familiar. A realization hits you in an instant. It's your room.

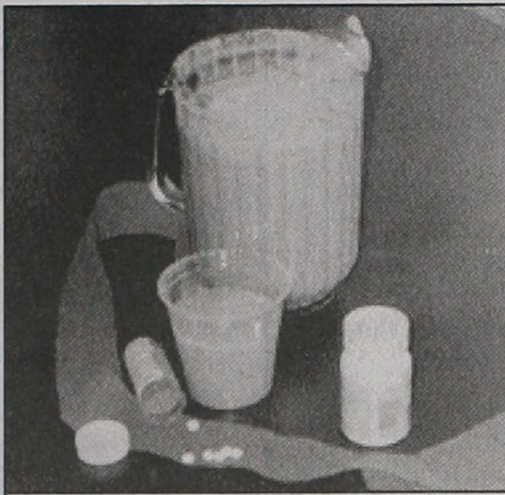
Imagine this exact situation happening, only to find out you weren't so fortunate. Many young women across the country are waking up in a strange bedroom, not knowing where they were or most importantly, how they got there.

Numerous women are falling victim to Rohypnol, the so-called "date-rape" drug which is better known as "roofies," "the forget pill" or "mind-erasers." Rohypnol acts as a sedative, quickly putting a person in an excited, agitated and inhibited state of mind and ultimately causing complete or partial amnesia.

This drug is extremely dangerous because it is odorless, colorless and tasteless, which disallows detection from the intended victim. Its effects last longer

than other sedatives, beginning within thirty minutes of ingestion. Effects can last up to eight hours.

Most women who have been



Brianne Williams, The Oracle

Date rape drugs, such as Ruffies, are often used to drug unsuspecting women by slipping them in drinks.

drugged state that they don't remember ever being drugged and they just don't remember at all. Not being able to recall is one of the most alarming effects of the drug.

As more women are becoming prey to Rohypnol, awareness of the drug becomes a necessity for prevention.

When drinking at a party or a club, don't leave drinks unattended for any amount of time. If you must, take your drink with you to the dance floor or the bathroom. Being uncomfortable for a couple of hours is not a small price to pay.

Always go out in pairs or a big group. Keep close tabs on your friends and never let them leave with someone if they look like they're not acting normal. The overall message is to be careful and fully aware of your surroundings.

The reason why the college community is beginning to become more educated about Rohypnol is because it is slowly finding its way to the college and university campuses.

In the United States, it's becoming especially accessible in the South, due to the relative ease of illegal transport. It is produced in Mexico, among other countries, and is prescribed in Europe for sedative/hypnotic purposes. The use of Rohypnol is prohibited in the United States.

Health&Beauty: Meningitis Dangers

By Lara Nagle

Layout Editor

Do you remember the last time you were out with your friends and you all decided to share a drink, whether it may have been soda, a bottle of water, or some type of alcoholic beverage? You may be under the impression that the others do not carry any harmful germs. Why would you even consider the fact that they might? You know them. Besides, you probably have shared a drink before.

However, is it possible that one of them could be carrying a germ that could cause the deadly disease meningitis? Yes.

Meningitis is defined as the inflammation of the membranes (called "meninges") that surround the brain and spinal cord.

Many different viruses and bacteria can cause meningitis. Meningococcal meningitis is a type of bacterial meningitis caused by a bacteria called *Neisseria Meningitis*. It is spread through the exchange of nose or throat secretions. Therefore, Meningococcal meningitis can be spread by sharing the same drink, eating utensil, cigarettes, chapstick or lipstick.

Other practices such as kissing, coughing, sneezing in someone's face or taking part in drinking games such as "kegging" or "funneling" where more than one person drinks from the same container are ways of contracting the bacteria.

Meningitis symptoms may appear suddenly. They include high fever, a severe, persistent headache, a stiff neck, nausea, and vomiting.

If you have these symptoms, go see the doctor immediately. Meningitis, if not treated promptly, is a very deadly disease and should not be taken lightly. But the only way to be certain you have the disease is through a doctor's diagnosis.

Meningococcal meningitis is a relatively rare disease and it usually occurs as a single isolated event. So why should college students even care?

Doctors believe that college students are susceptible to the disease due to irregular sleeping patterns and alcohol consumption, which make their immune systems weak.

The American College Health Association recommends that college health departments take active roles in informing students of the dangers and the ways to prevent the meningococcal disease.

A meningococcal vaccination can be given to prevent the disease. However, this vaccination is not recommended for college students because of its limitations. It provides immunity for only up to 3 years, does not protect against all the different kinds of meningitis and is only 85% effective.

Arleen Fernandez, Director of Health Services at the Mount, says that "Health Services will order the vaccination for [students concerned about the disease]."

On the Road to Prevention:

- Don't share drinks with friends, especially those you do not know.
- Don't share Chapstick or lipstick
- Don't use the same eating utensil as others
- Don't share cigarettes
- Keep your mouth covered when you sneeze or cough

Meningitis is a rare, but deadly disease. By taking safety precautions it can be prevented. We should not be paranoid, but should educate and protect ourselves. The next time you and your friends are out and there is talk of sharing a drink, think twice before you accept.

If you have any health and beauty questions, leave a message for Lara at (310) 954-4122 or e-mail oracle@msmc.la.edu.

Activity Board

Don't know where to take your younger siblings trick or treating? Want to go somewhere safe and secure? Want them to do more than just collect candy?

Look no further!!! The Doheny Campus is holding its annual Haunted Campus on Sunday, October 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. There will be games and candy and lots of fun for the whole family. Invite all...the more the merrier!

If you want to help out, Campus Ministry will begin working at 9 am on Sunday at the Doheny campus. Contact Marisella at extension 2599. Happy Halloween!!! (Submitted by Connie Moreno, Doheny Editor)

"Damn Yankees" will be playing at the Fullerton Civic Light Opera from October 15 to October 31, 1999. This musical fantasy is based on the novel "The Year the Yankees Lost

the Pennant." The play features the Washington Senators, a much-loved, but very bad baseball team and a baseball fanatic who sells his soul to lead the Senators "out of the cellar and into a pennant race" with the New York Yankees. For more information, visit their website at www.fclo.com or call their information line at (714) 526-3832. (Taken from the Fullerton Civic Light Opera Co., Inc Press Release)

The Skirball Cultural Center presents a screening of The Goodbye Girl (1977, 110 minutes). Neil Simon's comedy puts young actor Richard Dreyfuss and divorcee Marsha Mason together as unwilling tenants of the same New York City apartment. It will be shown October 12 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$6 general and \$4 for students. For more information, call (323) 655-8587. (Taken from Skirball Cultural Center Press Release)

Suzi's Study Abroad Adventures

By Suzi Schroeder

Staff Writer

I am the first to confess that I am a horrible procrastinator. Although, I have planned spending my fall semester in Salzburg for nearly a year. I put off doing most things until three weeks before leaving. My rationalization was that I was too busy working all summer to do them before. Besides, I enjoyed giving my AIFS (American Institute of Foreign Studies) counselor connipations by not applying for my student visa until two weeks before my departure.

I didn't do more than glance at the handbook. Much to my dismay, the packing list was too vague for my taste. It said something to the effect of "bring appropriate winter clothing"—exactly what does that mean? Growing up in Phoenix, I never was exposed to snow much. Moving to Los Angeles did not help. My idea of "winter clothing" happens to be jeans, a sweatshirt and Doc Martins.

Almost everyone I asked about cold weather attire told me to "layer." (Layer's of what?) My AIFS counselor was no help either. She simply could not understand that someone could be totally clueless about cold weather (for months I wondered what happens to the shoes when you wear snow boots). Fortunately I finally was able to get some advice,

unfortunately leading me to my next problem.

Have you ever tried buying heavy-duty winter clothes in Phoenix in September? Everyone is still dressed in tank tops and shorts, enjoying the 106 degree weather (despite the occasional rain storm, the latest one rendering me without e-mail). I went to countless stores, enduring the "what planet are you from" glance from the salespeople when I asked for coats and boots.

Most ski shops are closed until mid-October and many outdoor shops haven't received their shipments of winter clothes yet.

Eventually I found everything I needed, however then came the problem of packing it all. I've never owned a coat before that took up an entire suitcase! My handbook stressed the importance of over-packing, but I had trouble just finding enough room for everything on the packing list! Of course I waited until the night before I left to start packing.

My procrastination was a way of denying reality. This way, I could pretend that my departure was still a long time off, even though it was right upon me. This is not my first time away from home and it's not my first trip to Europe, but four months is a long time to be away.

I'm pretty scared about this trip; it's more the native language than anything. My German is non-existent. But, I can order chocolate ice cream fairly confi-

dently! However, if I want to go to grad school in Switzerland, my German (and French) needs to improve greatly. Since German is not offered at the Mount, I decided this was the best way to improve my language skills.

The reality of this trip didn't sink in until I left the Mount. But, I quickly forgot about it when I arrived in Phoenix because three weeks is a long time. Yet, as I try to stuff my possessions into my suitcases (on loan from my little brother) I am forced to think about it—I AM GOING TO AUSTRIA FOR FOUR MONTHS!

Sure I've thought about it some while getting foreign currency and trying on winter coats. But now tons of thoughts swim through my mind: "What if no one likes me," "How am I going to communicate," "Will everyone consider me a 'stupid American'." People who tell me I am brave for going never help, especially since I am going with the intention of learning a new language.

I know that all of these doubts are normal, however. I'll make the best of it because, after all, it definitely beats LA! Besides, if I can't handle four months abroad, how will I ever be involved in international business woman? Everything will go fine, despite my fears and apprehensions.

It will be all right and it will be an excellent semester. My good friend Milli says so! And you know what? I almost believe her.



Meet the Chalon Assoc

The Senate:

Powers:

- To safeguard the students' rights to vote in ASB-sponsored elections and to participate in all ASB-sponsored activities.
- To created a forum whereby student issues can be addressed.
- To initiate action regarding the issues.
- To voice student concerns to respective administrative offices and report results.
- To ensure student representation on College Committees and Councils.
- To recommend official recognition of new clubs and organizations to the President of College.
- To create subcommittees.

Responsibilities:

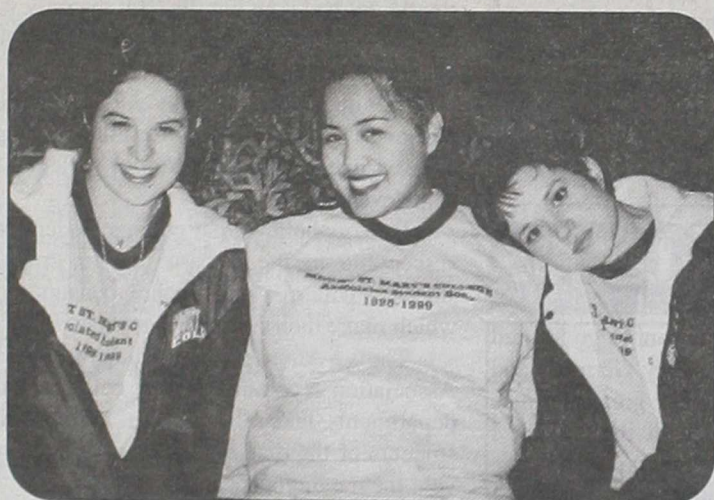
- To serve the individual and collective needs of the Associated Student Body and to initiate discussion and action regarding these needs.
- To investigate and make recommendations concerning matters and issues related to student life.
- To assist in providing a forum for communication and in the promotion of close cooperation between students, staff, administration, and alumnae of the college.
- To represent the opinions of their constituencies of the Administration of the College and other appropriate government bodies, both inside and outside the College.
- To make and act upon recommendations concerning other campus governing bodies.
- Required to attend all Senate meetings, participate in at least one college/ASB Board ommittee and report back to the Senate, be present in the ASB office for one hour per week [for office hours] and co-sponsor at least one event per year with the Athenian Spirit Chairperson.

Class Senator Duties:

- Hold at least one class meeting per month and at least one social event per semester.
- Distribute or post meeting minutes and general information to/for their constituencies.

Commuter Senators Duties:

- Hold at least two commuter meetings and one social event per semester.
- Promote the commuter club
- Distribute or post meeting minutes and general information for commuter students.



Courtesy of Sara Martinez

The 1999-2000 Executive Board: Kimberly Fine, Jackie Balba and Sara Martinez. To the right: Maya Gaddie, Pia Ocampo, Valorie Ocampo, Hannah Cvammen, Erika Gallo, Marliese Segismundo, Vanessa Pineda and Noemi Rosales.

The Executive Board:

Responsibilities:

- All: Ex-officio member of Senate, SAC and ICC, Executive Board members and Budget Review Board members.
- President: Official Representative of ASB, Chairperson and Ex-officio member of the Executive Board, Student Life Policy Board member, Student Services Coordinating Council Member and Coordinator of ASB workshops, retreats and mid-year assessment.
- Vice President, Chair of Senate: Chairperson to the Constitution Committee and assumes the responsibilities of the President in her absence or resignation.
- Vice President, Chair of SAC: student advisor to all SAC programming and assumes responsibilities of the President in the event of the absences or resignations of both the President and Vice-President of the Senate.
- Chair of InterClub Council (ICC): student advisor and programming facilitator to all clubs and organizations, liaison between ASB Board members and campus clubs and organizations, in charge of registration and recognition of College clubs and organizations, coordinate and display a monthly calendar of ASB showcases, serve as a liaison to Alumnae Relations.



Courtesy of Pia Ocampo



Courtesy of Maya Gaddie



Courtesy of Valorie Ocampo



Brianne Williams, Photographer

Who are your ASB R

Jackie Balba, P

Kimberly Fine, VP of Senate Sa

Erika Jones, Senior Senator Ser

Erika Gallo, Junior Senator

Noemi Rosales, Junior Senator Ka

Pia Ocampo, Sophomore Senator

Valorie Ocampo, Sophomore Senator Mar

Hannah Cvammen, Freshman Senator Var

Maya Gaddie, Freshman Senator Eun

Amanda Flagg, Commuter Senator Mar

Elizabeth Robles, Commuter Senator Cor

On behalf of the Associated Student Body, I would like to welcome you back to the 1999-2000 school year. I hope to participate another memorable year of growth, development and achievement. There are many events and activities that are in the process of being planned. We encourage everyone to take an active interest in serving on a committee, part of Student Activities and Community Service. The Floor of the Humanities building is the ASB, can have such a positive impact on the college. I invite you to join us in this venture. YOU and as always, it is a pleasure to have you. For more information, please call me during my office hours, Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

--Jackie Balba

Chalon ASB President

Associated Student Body

on behalf
 Associated Student
 like to welcome you
 000 school year. I antic-
 ble year filled with excite-
 There are many programs
 e process of being planned so
 o take part in. If you are inter-
 mitted, please come to the Office
 Commuter Services on the First
 building. We, the members of
 itive influence on the Mount. I
 s venture. ASB is here to serve
 s a pleasure. If you would like
 se call x4120 or stop by dur-
 s, Tuesday and Thursday
 pm
 kie Balba,
 ASB President



Courtesy of the Athenian
Yearbook, 1998-99



Courtesy of Marliese
Segismundo



Brianne Williams,
Photographer



Courtesy of the Athenian
Yearbook, 1998-99

ASB Representatives?

Balba, President

ate **Sara Martinez, VP of SAC**

ator **Serena Anglin, Educational
Programming**

ator **Kasandra Gramajo, Cultural
Celebrations**

ator **Maria Herrera, MultiCultural Night**

ator **Vanessa Pineda, Formal Chair**

ator **Eunice Rivas, Mount Events**

ator **Marliese Segismundo, Service Co-Chair**

ator **Cory Tong, Service Co-Chair**

Student Activities Council (SAC):

Responsibilities:

- The Student Activities Council shall serve as the primary source of support for all SAC functions.
- To plan, organize, and implement a wide variety of activities to serve the Mount St. Mary's College community.
- To schedule events in accordance with the Master Calendar of the College for the given school year.
- To co-sponsor events between SAC and College recognized clubs and organizations.
- To establish additional special events committees as needed.
- Required to attend all SAC meetings and be present in the ASB office for one hour per week [for office hours].

Duties:

- Dance Chair: Sponsor at least two campus dances each semester.
- Mount Events Chair: Responsible for Holiday Social and Lighting of the Circle in the fall semester.
- Cultural Celebrations Chair: Sponsor a cultural awareness project each month.
- Educational Programs Chair: Sponsor at least three educational programs each semester and be responsible for National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week in October, as well as other educational issues related to student social life.
- Spring Sing/Multicultural Night Chair: Be responsible for all facets of Spring Sing/Multicultural Night.
- Athenian Spirit Chair: Sponsor at least two campus events each semester, be responsible for coordinating the ASB-sponsored Orientation social event and create and support activities which build and encourage College and class spirit.
- Formal Chair: Sponsor at least one formal (or semi-formal) event and fundraise if necessary to help defray the cost of special events to students.
- Service Chairs: Sponsor at least two campus service activities each semester and collaborate with other service activities and organizations on campus.

33 I think that students think that their concerns aren't considered important. We want students to be heard and we want them to know we care.... [This year,] we want to let them know they are important. We want people to be proud of their school and be happy they came here. They should know that Student Activities is here for them. The whole reason any of us are here is for the students. They can come here and count on their ASB members. 99 -Kimberly Fine

InterClub Council (ICC):

Responsibilities:

- To promote and facilitate interclub activities, relations and communications.
- To facilitate club and organization scheduling of events in accordance with the Master Calendar of the College and the ASB Calendar.
- To assist the Director of Student Activities in the development and recognition of clubs and organizations affiliated with Mount St. Mary's College.
- To encourage co-sponsorship of events between College recognized clubs and organizations and SAC committees.

All information taken from the ASB Constitution, which is available on the Mount website at www.msmc.la.edu.

Not all ASB members are pictured.

Tori Amos Rocks, Alanis, Well, Doesn't

By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer

The lights went down, and from off the stage I could hear a voice sing the first few lines to the song, "God." The audience roared and bright lights flashed in my face.

I was front row center at a Tori Amos concert. This was too good to be true. I looked up at the stage and saw Tori's band, three guys she likes to refer to as "creatures of sound." I saw the lonely nine-foot long piano and thought to myself, "Tori will be sitting there any second!"

The audience screamed louder and louder and finally a little figure came hopping around the corner and took her place at the piano bench. She started to pound out an incredible song on the keys, as she tossed her wavy red hair back and stomped on the foot pedal with her delicate foot. No one can truly understand the energy of Tori Amos until she is seen live. This woman, this little 5'2" woman, evokes emotion people didn't even know they had.

Tori also has amazing power over her audience. As soon as she starts to play, everyone is quiet. But as soon as she hits that last note a standing ovation is always in order.

I was so excited to be at Irvine Meadows Amphitheater on Sunday, September 26. I had just bought Tori's new album, "To Venus and Back," a week earlier and was eager to hear new material live.

The album is so different from Tori's first album, "Little Earthquakes." The two are on different sides of the musical spectrum. On 1991's "Little Earthquakes," she dealt with her rape and coming of age in a diary form that summaged emotions from her fans and gave them the comfort that they are not alone.

Her second album, "Under the Pink," was more of an impressionistic painting that described the dark side of womanhood, and how horrible girls can be to each other. 1996's "Boys for Pele" was a trip through Tori's own personal River Styx. After breaking off a long-term relationship, her life was so different, and that change came through in her songs on that album.

Tori's fourth album, "from the choirgirl hotel," was a departure from the "girl and piano" routine. She brought in musicians, a bassist, guitarist and drummer and started writing again. Tori's unfortunate miscarriage spurred a lot of emotion that showed up in her girls on that album. Tori often refers to her songs as her "children" or her "girls." With so many "children" how does she pick which ones to play live?

Tori never has a planned set-list when she plays live. She has a bit of an outline of songs that she might play, but one of her girls always wind up popping up and surprising

front row, so we decided we might as well stay for Morrisette. What a mistake that was.

Alanis Morrisette is the worst live performer I have ever seen. Her lanky body lingered onstage in an outfit that was put together by a Chinese Monk and Sporty Spice. She performed a song that I couldn't even distinguish because her musicians' instruments were so loud and her voice was so shrill and harsh.

One thing that really irritated me about Alanis' set was, well, Alanis. The woman is spastic, in every sense of the word. At one point she started spinning around in circles and got her hair caught in her microphone stand.

The other thing that completely annoyed me was that she didn't make any sort of eye contact with her audience. Tori makes eye contact with her audience throughout the show. You can almost feel Tori looking into your heart and singing for you and only you.

Alanis, however, makes odd hand gestures and sings to her drummer most of the time, with her back to us. I think I would've enjoyed Alanis a bit more if she hadn't toured with Tori. I have to admit, I am a Tori Amos fan, not an Alanis Morrisette fan. The only reason I was there was Tori. And the fact that Tori's set was cut short because of Alanis made me mad.

Although Tori's set was short, I still got to hear a few new songs from "To Venus and Back." The new songs were even better live. I love the humorous "Glory of the 80's" where Tori describes the decadence of the 1980's. "1,000 Oceans" isn't as cryptic as some of her other songs, but the message is beautiful and the piano bits are wonderful.

Perhaps one of my favorite songs on the album thus far is "Suede." It has a jazzy feel to it, and a great bass line. The live CD of the new album is also wonderful. Most of the songs won't be anything new to the hard core Toriphile, as we affectionately call ourselves.

If you are looking to spend \$20 on new music, I highly suggest the new album of Tori Amos' called "To Venus and Back." It'll take you on a trip you've never been on before.

If you want to be bored out of your mind with simplistic lyrics and repetitive music, check out Alanis Morrisette's newest album "Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie." Also, be sure to keep your eye on TV listings because Tori will be appearing on Late Night with Conan O'Brien soon, as well as The Rosie O'Donnell Show.



Above: Julie Purzycki, Staff Writer
To the Right: Courtesy of Tom Reilly



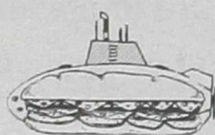
On September 26, Tori Amos performed at the Irvine Meadows Amphitheater. With a charismatic energy on stage, Amos overshadowed fellow singer Alanis Morrisette, who co-headlined the show. Amos' talent can be appreciated on her new CD, "To Venus and Back."

her.

The show I attended was the last show of the "5 1/2 Weeks Tour" she co-headlined with pseudo-feminist pop rocker Alanis Morrisette. Tori's set was the shortest set I'd ever seen her play. I love Tori, but when she was finished I felt unfulfilled and knew Alanis was coming up next.

My friends and I had weaseled our ways up to the

Quizno's



Subs

By Asilki Jones
and Jasmine Mohiuddin

Staff Writer, Page Editor

For quite some time, Jasmine and I had been receiving recommendations of fabulous delis and deli-style restaurants. Our curiosity began to grow and one slow Saturday afternoon, after viewing the illustrious Cafe Chalon menu, we decided it was a good day for sandwiches.

We made our way to Quizno's, which was just off the 405 South on Sawtelle Boulevard. It had a nice, clean patriotic-Italian feel to it. They featured a yummy variety of sandwiches and featured novel toppings such as mushrooms and guacamole.

The three of us ordered a small turkey guacamole sub, regular Mediterranean chicken sub, large veggie sub, and I also ordered a small chicken noodle soup. All sandwiches are offered in small, regular, or large sizes. The small is one section, the regular is two, and the large is a whopping three. Each portion is about 4 inches in length and width, but boy are they stuffed!

The sandwiches were very pleasantly served in baskets, with

the toppings spilling out the sides. It was glorious! Our friend, Gena was only able to eat most of her regular sized sub and I could not finish my huge vegetarian sub. And let me just say that if you are a vegetarian, you will not miss the meat. My sandwich had 2 or 3 kinds of melted cheese, mushrooms, tomatoes, lettuce, olives, bell peppers, and guacamole. It was divine!

All of our sandwiches were heavenly, including the price. The sandwiches were \$3.09 for the small, \$5.09 for the regular, and \$6.99 for the large. For less than \$10, you can have a yummy sandwich, chips and drink and have significant left overs. Even the lemonade was good!

The only thing that wasn't heavenly was the chicken soup, which was just passable. But hey, you go to a deli for sandwiches, right? They also deliver and cater, which I thought may be a good suggestion for floor parties (tell your RAs. They have two, four, and six footers that can feed up to 24 people!) Quizno's is by far superior to Subway and definitely worth trying if you just have a hankering for good finger food. We give it a yummy+.

Student Finds a Pleasant Surprise in "On and Off the Wall"

By Connie Moreno

Doheny Editor

Venturing to the Jose-Drudis-Biada Building on the Chalon campus, I found a new exhibition on display in the art gallery. The new display features the works of artists Stan Edmondson and Fred Haupton.

Walking into the gallery, I began to wonder what I got myself into.

I am by no means an art critic and my knowledge of art is pretty narrow, so I was worried that I might not do the artist and his work justice by expressing my opinion.

When I walked in, I saw the sculptures and thought, "This is beautiful." I admit that at first I was like "Huh?" But, as I stood there and looked at it for some time, I began to get it.

One of the pieces I liked best is titled "Plumbers Manifesto." I liked it because it looked like a man carrying something on his

shoulder. To me it was kind of a celebration of the working class man. I don't know if that is what the artist was intending, but that is what I got from it.

Other pieces that I particularly enjoyed were "Orpheus" and "Aquiles." There are a good number of pieces so you get a very good idea of Haupton's body

Needless to say, the paintings were beautiful and transmit good vibes. I loved "Windows 2000." It covers the whole wall and you feel as if you are in the sky when you look at it.

Another painting that I really enjoyed was "Big Dunes." Its bright colors made me think of the sun and the desert. The most interesting aspect of all his paintings was that they are composed of many smaller canvases, put together to form a bigger picture. It was unlike anything I had ever seen. It was quite enlightening.

I think these two artists are enormously talented and you owe it to yourself to take a stroll down to the art gallery to enjoy their art. It is something out of the ordinary and it really takes your mind off that paper or that test.

The exhibition will be going on until October 21 and it is open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. Take the time to go. You don't need to be an art critic to appreciate beauty and splendor.



Brianne Williams, The Oracle

"On and Off the Wall" gives a new view into the world of art. This exhibition will be available in the Drudis-Biada Building until October 21.

of work.

Continuing on my journey, I ran into clouds, oceans, dunes, grass, bushes and pines greeted me. No, I didn't walk out of the gallery. These are the subjects in Edmondson's paintings.

Just a Little Less Than Euphoric

By Michelle Perry

Staff Writer

I've been missing Chris Cornell since Soundgarden broke up two and a half years ago, so I was understandably ecstatic when I heard he was releasing a solo album and touring.

I stood in line with other fans (all male) and bought a ticket to see him on September 21, the same day his new album, "Euphoria Morning," would be released.

Tuesday the 21st, I trekked down to the Henry Fonda Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard, a small, quaint theater. Chris' voice was strong and beautiful, though he looked almost as thin as Fiona Apple.

Had it only been Chris on stage with the mike, the show would have been magnificent. However, Chris had his backing band, Eleven, playing behind him.

The members of Eleven were adequate, but it was obvious that Chris and the band didn't have that intuitive dynamic that is found in great performances. I'll be easy on him, since it was his first concert in two and a half years, but I was disappointed.

At times the music (the band was made up of a guitarist, bassist, drummer, and keyboardist) sounded cacophonous and dissonant.

To my surprise, Chris did a few Soundgarden songs, such as "Like Suicide," though he tampered with the arrangement of the guitar chords, which didn't improve the songs at all. He also messed with "All Night Thing" from his Temple of the Dogs days. He did, how-

ever, do an awesome rendition of "Seasons."

He also played most of the songs from "Euphoria Morning." A wailing "Steel Rain," an ironic "When I'm Down," and a haunting "Sweet Euphoria" were some of the best.

On stage Cornell is no longer armed with a guitar (unfortunately, as I didn't care much for the clunky playing of guitarist Alain Johannes), and though Chris didn't do much other than clutch the microphone stand, he had a presence of confidence and strength. At times the keyboardist, Natasha Shneider, drew attention away from Chris with her excessively animated playing.

Though the majority of the crowd had never heard most of the songs, they were supportive and receptive. It was far from an exceptional concert, but Chris' voice made it worthwhile.

I wasn't able to buy the album until a few days after the concert. At first listen, I found it thin and rather boring. But in the last week, I've changed my tune. Euphoria is definitely an album that grows on you.

Most of the album is made up of mellow rock/soul songs. Lyrically Chris broods over relationships, loneliness, regret, and destruction, but these themes contrast with feeling the music itself, which communicates a sense of hope, melancholy but optimistic, and a bittersweet appreciation of beauty and life.

The Beatle-y "Can't Change Me," the first song released from Euphoria Morning, is one of the catchiest of the album, but the other

diverse songs on the album are of good quality.

"When I'm Down" is a slow, bluesy, piano-based song that stood out in the concert and is equally beautiful on the album.

The trilling mandolin that opens "Follow My Way" and Chris' wail on "Steel Rain" are reminiscent of the Soundgarden days, though the latter contains a spooky harpsichord sound that is new.

Unfortunately, "Preaching the End of the World" is cluttered with unnecessary electronic effects, and the lyrics of "Moonchild" are trite, but both "Flutter Girl" and "Disappearing One," have a beautiful melancholy to them.

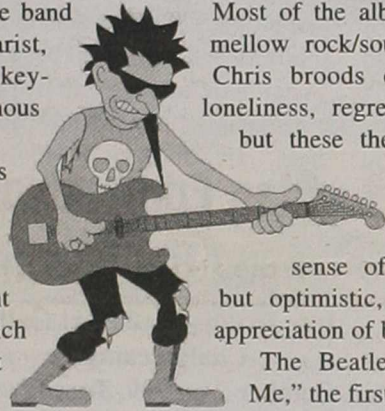
I was thrilled to find that Chris did a tribute to the late Jeff Buckley (one of the most talented musicians of this decade) in "Wave Goodbye," a song that captures the sound of someone smiling over a broken heart.

Chris is striving to follow in Buckley's wake, evident in some of his new vocal stylings and the expanding of his range. However, he hasn't quite found the way yet.

This album gave Chris a canvas on which to experiment musically, lyrically and vocally. Though it is not as strong as it could be, given Chris' talent, Euphoria Morning is still an alluring collection of songs.

Perhaps it will take a while for Chris to find the musical balance that Soundgarden provided, but I would definitely recommend Euphoria Morning to anyone who enjoys good music.

If you're a fan of Chris' or like "Can't Change Me," buy the album and give it a few good listens. It will make its way under your skin. But wait a while to see him and his band in concert.



Book Review

Queen of the Damned

By Melissa Cruz

Staff Writer

After seeing *Interview With the Vampire* for the nine-hundredth time, I decided to read a few of Anne Rice's novels. Most recently, I finished *The Queen of the Damned*.

In this book, Rice explains how vampires came into existence and it chronicles the days leading up to "The Vampire Lestat's" debut concert. If you don't know what concert I'm referring to or even who "The Vampire Lestat" is, don't despair. Don't think that you have to go back and read *Interview With the Vampire* and *The Vampire Lestat* in order to follow the story; Anne Rice does an excellent job of giving all the precursory information you will need to follow along.

In *The Vampire Lestat*, another installment of *The Vampire Chronicles*, the story is told entirely from Lestat's perspective. In *The Queen of the Damned*, each main character narrates a part of the story, allowing the reader to get to know the characters more intimately than in the previous chronicles. A less talented writer might have lost her reader by changing narrators so often, but Rice does this skillfully and it is always obvious who the narrator is.

In this novel, Rice takes the reader on a scenic trip through thousands of years of history as well as through many different countries and cultures. She contrasts the brutality of life thousands of years ago with the peace of the twentieth century. The way that the ancient vampires speak of the modern world makes the reader appreciate the peace of this technological age.

The Queen of the Damned answers many questions that were raised in my mind by the movie, *Interview With the Vampire*. So, if you have a little spare time and you've been looking for a good, non-academic book to read, I suggest picking up a copy of *The Queen of the Damned*.

The Not-So-Casual Movie Goer: American Beauty

By Joycelyn Lee

Staff Writer

How often is it that an acclaimed movie (think TITANIC, people) actually lives up to its hype? Not too often. AMERICAN BEAUTY is one of the jewels in that rare breed of movies.

While one can play the adjective game in attempting to describe this masterpiece (haunting, cynical, tender, and wryly humorous come to mind) but to sum it up, this movie is downright brilliant.

For starters, the ending of the story is revealed to the audience three minutes into the movie. Lester Burnham (Kevin Spacey) informs the audience (in voice-over narration reminiscent of the Bill Holden's ill-fated Joe Gillis in SUNSET BLVD) "In less than a year, I'll already be dead."

Interesting thought. Forty-two year old Lester then proceeds in detailing his mid-life crisis: he hates his job, his emotionally dormant marriage, and his routine upper middle-class suburban lifestyle.

Carolyn, Lester's wife, a really evil woman, is a success-driven real estate agent who's perfectly matched clogs and gardening shears are, according to Lester, "no accident."

To give you an idea of Carolyn's control-freak tendencies, she is the type of person who chants phrases like "I will

SELL this house today" and "I refuse to be a victim" on a regular basis.

Both Lester and Carolyn take the least possible interest in their angry, insecure teenage daughter Jane (Thora Birch.) Jane, like her mother, despises Lester, but he seems to have no complaints, as his life is about to change drastically.

After attending one of Jane's high school basketball games, Lester develops a secret crush on Jane's blonde sex-kitten

friend Angela (Mena Suvari). He even

goes as far as to lift weights in the garage to impress her.

But that's not all. We still have the situation of Burham's neighbors.

Colonel Fitts, a homophobic ex-marine officer, his vacant wife, and reserved, drug-dealing son Ricky (Wes Bentley) have just moved in next door to the Burham household.

Ricky's relationship with Colonel Fitts is, without a doubt, one of the sickest, most twisted father-son relationship ever portrayed on screen.

As the story unfolds, we are drawn into the deceit, hypocrisy, sadness, hopes, delusions, and fantasies that are generated when these 2 families collide.

The Movie: American Beauty

The Players: Kevin Spacey, Annette Benning

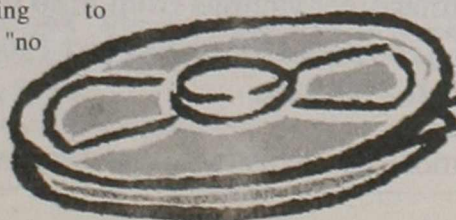
Genre: Dark Comedy

Rated: R, for sexual themes, language, drug use

Opened: Oct. 1st, nationwide

Rating: **** 1/2

AMERICAN BEAUTY



The events that ensue literally take the term "dysfunctional families" to a new level.

Watch the placement of the roses carefully in the myriad of scenes in which they show up, i.e., the dinner table, Carolyn's garden, in Lester's liaisons with Angela, real and imagined.

They are a breathtaking accent and deeply symbolic of beauty (or what is perceived to be beauty) in a film that itself is already a contender in the early Oscar race.

The film's tagline invites us to "Look Closer," and look closer we must. Nothing in this movie is what it first appears to be.

LOOK CLOSER.

Words alone do not do this film justice. Go see AMERICAN BEAUTY for yourself. You will not walk away disappointed.

Ratings System:

- ***** Brilliant, inspiring, a classic, you get the idea
- **** First rate- worth your time and money
- *** Flawed but had its moments
- ** Desperation Time
- * Someone please shoot the producer

Attention Mount Students!!!

The MSMC Writers' Series,
featuring acclaimed novelist
Francisco Goldman
(The Long Night of White Chickens and
The Ordinary Seaman.)

who will be reading from his latest works,
will be held on
Monday, October 11,
at 8:00 pm
in the Art Gallery

The reading is free and open to the public.
Invite your family and friends
A reception will follow the reading.

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in
Spring 2000?

**Have you received a grad. packet
from the Registrar's Office?**

- ✓ YES--then fill out those forms & return them by Nov. 22, 1999!
- ✓ NO--Stop by the REG. office to request a packet!

Notice: Interruption in Services

Later this month, the college will be upgrading the student database system. Therefore, the Admissions, Student Financing, Registrar's and Business Offices will be unable to conduct normal business on:

Thursday October 21
Friday October 22
Saturday, October 23
Sunday, October 24

Payroll, GroupWise and Internet access should not be affected.

Please plan ahead! Thank you.

Questions? Concerns? Contact Dr. Mari Wadsworth in Student Affairs.

ON AND OFF THE WAGON

Wall

Stan Edmondson
Fred Hauptman

Jose Drudis-Biada Art Gallery
Chalon campus.

September 28-October 21, 1999, Tuesday through Saturday
12 noon to 5 p.m.

See *Oracle* staff review on Page 9.

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Come join us for our next meeting!

We meet every Tuesday at 7pm in the Student Activities Office on 1st Floor Humanities (across from the Deli on Chalon).

Like to take pictures? Want to use your creative talents?
Then the Yearbook needs you!

Meetings are held **Wednesday** evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Student Activities Office on First Floor Humanities.

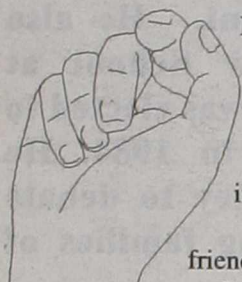
See you at the documenting of history... *the Yearbook!*

The Diva's Best Beauty and Makeup Tips

By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer

Hey ladies! I'm back with some great tips I've accumulated through my 19 years of being a girl. I have to admit, not all of these wonderful remedies are mine. I can't presume to take all the credit. So, thanks to my mom, my lovely friends, and those cheesy teenybopper magazines from the late 80's and early 90's.



First off, let's start with **nails**. Most of us know that nail care is a pain in the...well, you know. But here are some tips that will make nail care easier, faster, and all in all more aesthetically pleasing.

To stimulate nail growth, a friend of mine told me that tapping your fingers works. By tapping your fingers, not only do you stimulate nail growth and strength, but you also activate follicle growth.

I know that doing your nails is a big time commitment. You can't do anything for at least an hour after you polish your nails. You can't change clothes, or eat, or write because the polish stays tacky, and you can't ruin your freshly done fingernails.

I heard a long time ago that if you stick your freshly painted fingers in a bowl of icy cold water they will dry faster.

Also, never shake your bottle of nail polish before applying. This causes air bubbles and therefore hinders the drying process. If you need to mix the polish, roll it gently back and forth between the palms of your hands.

Just a side-note...if you do paint your nails and are looking for a quick way to dry them and think, "Hey, I'll just stick my hand out the window while I drive!" Think again girls, I've murdered many a bug on the 405 freeway with this method. It's not a pretty sight, seeing the little insect graveyard you've manifested in your nail bed.

Isn't it terrible when you look at your nails and see the ugly, chipping remains of what you presume to be pink? Even worse, you're out of your favorite shade of blue that you could've used to cover it up.

I discovered a quick fix to this quandary while playing "Scientist Julie" in my bathroom one uneventful night. What you do is create your OWN shades. All you need is clear polish, some eye shadow or food coloring, and some imagination. Mix them together with a cotton swab, and there you have your own color.

Don't ever cut your cuticles! They are there for a reason, just like your fingernails. Your cuticles prevent infection from entering your body.

Next, let's talk **skin**. We all have it, and we all have issues with it. Girls, sometimes you don't treat your epidermis with the respect you should. It is for that reason that I will enlighten you with some great skin remedies.

Being the poor (and cheap) college student I am, I always look for inexpensive ways to beautify myself. While experimenting in the laboratory that is my bathroom, I discovered that if mixing a cup of coarse salt and a cup of baby oil makes a great skin scrub.

What you do is rub the mixture on your skin, leave it on for two minutes, then rinse. Your skin will feel softer, smoother, and taste like the ocean.

Admit it. We all get blackheads. Think Biore nose strips are the way to go? No way. At that price I should get a good-looking beautician who gives great facials, in a box. My remedy is this: mix a paste of baking soda and water. Make sure it's thick enough so it won't drip off your skin. Spread the muck on the blackheads, leave it on for 5 minutes, then rinse it off. It works better than Biore!

One of the best tips I ever found in a cheesy teen magazine dealt with pimples. If you ever run out of zit

cream, the next best thing is toothpaste. Just dab the Crest, Colgate, or generic toothpaste on your zits and sleep on it. The toothpaste dries out your zits, and leaves them minute fresh!

Just a suggestion, don't use Close-Up, or any kind of gel toothpaste. Not only does it burn, but also it leaves a horrible blotchy mark that looks worse than your zit did in the first place.

Another helpful zit tip has to do with the question, to pop, or not to pop. When we have a huge whitehead, we are inclined to squeeze out the yucky white stuff and make the hideousness go away. Popping may lead to scarring and further outbreaks.

However, if you do pop, use Q-tips or your fingers covered with tissue. And don't pop with nails; use fingertips so you don't cause too much scarring.

It's important that you use tissue or Q-tips because if you get white blood cells on your fingers and then touch another part of your face, it will spread infection and cause more zits. Also, putting a hot compress on zits will decrease the inflammation of the zit and lessen the appearance of redness.

When you get those nasty sunburns after a day outside, the best soother is anything with aloe. The next best thing, if you don't have any product with aloe, is Noxzema. Just spread the cream all over your sunburn, but don't let it dry out, because you'll never get it off your legs.

When you get that tough skin on your elbows, or as my friend refers to them as, "elephant elbows," cut a lemon in half and rub it into the rough skin. Just make sure you don't have any open wounds on the skin.

Ok, not all of us can smell like roses naturally, so sometimes we need some assistance from **perfumes and deodorants**.

Most women don't know this, but there are six main places to put perfume...your wrists, behind your ears, between your breasts, on the nape of your neck, in the crevices of your elbows and behind your knees. These key places generate more heat than other places on your body, therefore activating your fragrance all day, or night, long.

It is important to know that anti-perspirant and deodorant are not the same thing. Do you ever wonder why you might sweat, but it doesn't smell? Or maybe your armpits totally reek, but you are completely dry? You are probably using either an anti-perspirant or a deodorant, not a combination of both. The best thing to do is buy a combination so you can have the dryness and the fresh smell.

A quick fix: if you are out of deodorant, baby powder works as a temporary deodorant.

Here are some helpful hints to assist you in keeping your **legs and feet** looking and feeling great.

Tell me girls, don't you hate it when your legs are starting to look like the shrubbery outside of the Humanities Building and you are out of shaving cream? In a desperate attempt one morning, I smoothed hair conditioner on my legs. It worked just as well, and my legs smelled so good!

Don't shave right before you go swimming in the ocean or a pool. It may cause razor burn, ingrown hairs, and irritation of the skin.

When your feet get really dry in the winter, put some petroleum jelly on your feet, then put some cotton socks over your toes before you go to bed. You'll wake up with soft, smooth feet.

Next up, your **lips and face**. Here are some tips to keep them both beautiful.

During the fall and winter seasons we all get chapped lips. Never lick your lips to solve this problem. It may moisten them for a

WHEN TO TRASH YOUR MAKEUP!

Mascara: 3 months

Eye and lip liner: 6 months

Loose power blush and eye shadow: 9 months

Foundation and lipstick: 1 year

Nail polish: ok, here's my theory on nail polish...much like the cockroach, it too will survive a nuclear blast. I have nail polishes from the 80's, and they still work fine for me. Use your own judgement. If your nail polish is clumpy, discolored and thick, throw it away.

second, but it just makes them worse in the end. Try to use a chapstick with aloe, if possible. Don't use chapsticks that are Vaseline based. They dry out your lips even more.

I have two great ways to make eye bags and dark circles around the eyes disappear. First, for dark circles, put two metal spoons in the freezer for a couple minutes until they turn cold.

Then place one on top of each eye area and keep them there for another couple minutes. Just remember to wash them before you eat your morning cereal...it's

gross when you find an eyelash in your Grape Nuts.

Also, if you dab a bit of nude lipstick under the eyes, it lessens the look of circles.

For puffy eye bags I use Preparation H Hemorrhoid cream. It really works! Don't ask how I discovered this, but trust me, it takes away those puffy eyes after a long night of studying. Plus, you won't grow any unwanted hemorrhoids under your eyes!

If you want to get eye make-up off, good luck. With all the waterproof, tear-proof, Los Angeles-proof make-up out there, you're lucky if it wears off in a few days.

I found a couple ways to get stubborn eye make-up off. Vaseline works really well for taking off mascara. You just rub it on with a soft towel or washcloth, and rub it off. You can also use Vaseline to remove lipstick and eye shadow.

We all have **hair** drama. I know I do every morning. Here a few tips that will take a little bit of stress out of your locks.

Although you may want to, DON'T wash your hair every day! It is bad for your hair and your scalp. It dries out your scalp, which then prevents growth, and it dries out your hair which increases follicle breakage and split ends.

Here's a quick fix for oily hair when you don't have time to shower. Sprinkle a bit of baby powder and brush through your hair. It will absorb the oil and leave a nice smelling head.

Don't brush your hair when it's wet. Your hair is most vulnerable when it is wet and brushing can cause breakage and split ends. Towel dry your hair, and run your fingers through it.

Mayonnaise takes oil out of your hair. The thought may gross you out but trust me it works. Rub mayo into your hair, sit for an hour, and then rinse it out.

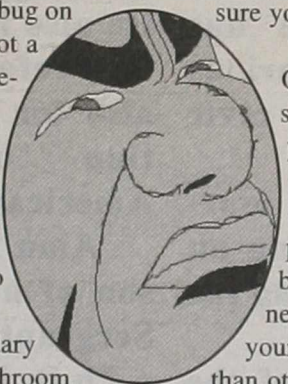
Here is a tip to make your hair shiny and soft. My friend says it works really well on thick, coarse hair. You get enough olive oil to make your hair nice and oily (you put in on dry hair before you go to bed) rub it in and put saran rap around your hair. Then you put a bandana around it so it doesn't drip all over your Winnie the Pooh pillows. Then you sleep with it on.

When you wake up in the morning this is how you get that oil out: before you get into the shower you get some shampoo and you rub it in your hair with NO water. Then when you get in the shower you wash it out and then shampoo and condition it as usual...when you are all done you should have beautiful hair!

Washing hair with beer takes out all the impurities from daily styling. My friend's mom told me they used to do this in the 70's. I've never tried it, but people say it works. Honestly, I wouldn't want my head to smell like a frat party all day, but that's just me.

Do you have a lot of split ends? Take small sections of hair, twist them and the split ends will stick out, snip them with sharp scissors.

That's it ladies! I hope I have been of some assistance to you on your quest for beauty. Just remember, don't share eye make-up with friends, don't bite your nails, and please, for your own sake, check your teeth after you apply lipstick. Red teeth are not the fashion statement you want to make.



Are You "Up to Date" on Your PRESIDENTIAL VIEWS?

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

Do you know who you will vote for? Have you taken a look at each candidate's accomplishments? Did you research their stand on important issues?

With the 2000 elections coming up, there are many candidates for president to choose from. As usual, there are the Democratic and the Republican parties. But, this year, along with the usual liberal parties, there are several other parties, new as well as older, less popular ones.

Bill Bradley, Pat Buchanan, George W. Bush, Elizabeth Dole, Al Gore, Orrin Hatch, and Alan Keyes are the main electives who have announced their candidates for the 2000 Presidential elections.

Bill Bradley is one of the most well known candidates. This senator from New Jersey has a long list of accomplishments. First off, he had an excellent education, attending many prestigious schools, such as Princeton University and Oxford University.

He was also a professional basketball player. In 1964, he represented the United States at the Olympic Games in basketball at Tokyo, Japan. He served in the Air Force between 1967-1978.

He has also served as a chairman on the Advisory Committee On Public Issues, Ad Council, Board of Directors, and National Civic League.

He is a democrat who believes in equal rights for the homeless. He supports issues on welfare and lower taxes.

Pat Buchanan was born for politics. Or, at least he was born in Washington D.C. He is married, but has no children.

He obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Georgetown University. He got his

Masters in Journalism from Columbia University. He has held several positions such as Editorial Writer for the St. Louis Club Democrat, Special Assistant and Advisor to Richard Nixon, Director of Communications for the White House, and co-host of CNN's "Crossfire."

He believes that the best way to control Medicare is to invest in personal insurance accounts or personal investment.

"Equal rights for all--special rights for none." That is Buchanan's stand on affirmative action.

George W. Bush is currently the governor of Texas. He received a bachelor's degree from Yale University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

He has 17 year-old twin daughters. He is a Methodist. Throughout his career he has served on the boards of various charitable, business and civic organizations.

Bush opposes same-sex marriages and is pro-life, making an exception for incest, protecting the life of the mother, and rape.

Elizabeth Dole is one of the ladies running for office. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Duke University. She also earned a degree from Harvard Law School and also holds a Master's Degree in Education and Government from Harvard. She has held offices such as Secretary of Transportation, Assistant to President Reagan for Public Liaison, and the nation's 20th Secretary of Labor.

Dole was also named one of the world's top three most admirable women in 1998. She has served for six U.S. presidents throughout her career.

Dole is in favor of the filtering for pornography. She believes in prayer at public high schools and supports the movement to require child safety locks on guns.

Al Gore, our current vice



president, is also running for the office of President in the upcoming 2000 presidential elections. He graduated from Harvard with Honors in Government. He also attended Law School at Vanderbilt. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1984. He challenges Bill Bradley to debate the issues of working families of America.

He is a believer in the working class. Because of this, he has moved his campaign headquarters from Washington D.C. to Nashville, Tennessee. But, he is also a firm supporter of higher taxes.

Orrin Hatch is also a United States Senator. He was a strong supporter of Ronald Reagan. He is known for his strong work ethic. He supports disabled Americans and strong punishment of crimes. He also has ideas for tax reform. He is also for the protection of Native Americans.

Alan Keyes is the son of a U.S. Army Sergeant. He received a Ph.D. in government at Harvard University. He is the author of *Our Character, Our Future*. He also ran for President in the 1996 election. He is the former Vice President of The Ronald Reagan Alumni Association. He later became President of the association.

He is the Founder of National Taxpayers Action Day and the Founder and Chairman of the Declaration Foundation. He is also the former President of Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW).

He opposes abortion and same sex marriages.

Can you tell me who is the best candidate for you is? No, of course not. These are only tidbits.

You should research the candidates to find the one that best represents your views. Then you can know that you picked the candidate because of facts, not rumors. Now, here's the easiest part: voting!



The Oracle

Mount St. Mary's College
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Transportation Concerns

By Dania Sutton

Copy Editor

With the recent departure of the Transportation Supervisor, Jeff Bredehoft, students were left to ponder over who would become the new Transportation Supervisor and what would be done to keep the shuttles running smoothly.

Carlos Guzman is now the acting Supervisor of Transportation Services. According to Guzman, students who have concerns related to schedule times or late arrivals can address these concerns to him and he will make every effort to meet the needs of the students, from Chalon, Doheny, and the University of Judaism.

"We're going to provide good service to all students, no matter what," Guzman said.

Julio D. Herrera, the Associate Director, also reiterated the validity of students as their top priority, further shared this sentiment. "Although we are not perfect, we do the best that we can. Moreover, while there have been few instances where our drivers have been late. On average, these delays have been less than 20-percent. It won't happen under my administration; the service that we provide is going to work better," he said.

In spite of the continued efforts of the transportation department, some Mount students, specifically those who reside at the University of Judaism consider themselves residents of the Mount as well as commuters, feel that the Transportation Department is not doing enough.

Kristina Flores, a second year student from UJ, says "They are not taking into consideration what we really need. There are times when the early shuttle tries to leave exactly on time instead of giving a bit of leeway to those students who just need an extra five minutes in the morning. It's not a city bus; some drivers should be a little more flexible and understanding. The shuttle is the only means of transportation that we have and the person should be the primary concern, not the schedule itself."

ule itself."

Reanna Reyes, a third year student who also commutes from UJ feels that most of the problems could be resolved if the transportation department would communicate better with the students.

"There are times when changes are made to the schedule and students are not aware of this because at times we are not notified, or, in my experience with living at UJ, just overlooked," Reyes said.

Nonetheless, there are some commuter students who feel that the shuttle service provides excellent service and find no faults with their efforts. Second year commuter, Laura Kester, rides the shuttle from Doheny to Chalon. She said "I found that my experience with riding the shuttle has been very enjoyable. And as far as I know, they are always on time."

Although students may not be aware, Herrera, Director of Physical Plant, would like students to know (especially those from UJ) that they have copies of their class schedules and make every effort to accommodate each student.

"We take the students at both campuses, and UJ very seriously. In fact, we have even gone as far as to provide a shuttle service for those few students who have classes early in the morning. For instance, we provide an early shuttle to accommodate only two or three students. At times you will see a shuttle with only about 3 students riding on it," Herrera said.

"These decisions are made not just by us, but also the Student Affairs and even the students. The students tell us what they need and we all together provide that service," Herrera wished to remind us.

Herrera and Guzman both want students to know their comments are appreciated and suggestions would aide in providing better service.

"If they have any ideas concerning what we can do to help them, they should bring them to us, so that we can try to give them the service they expect."

CA to Repeal Book Tax?

By Andres Cardenas

Daily Forty-Niner

California State U., Long Beach

(U-WIRE) LONG BEACH, California—

Student representatives from local universities and community colleges met Friday to discuss ways to repeal the tax on textbooks required for university courses.

Representatives from Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Fullerton, University of Southern California and Orange Coast College met at the Chancellor's Office of Cal State Long Beach to discuss the proposed bill to be presented to the California Legislature.

"It was dynamic," Associated Students Inc. President Toby Sexton said.

One of the questions brought up during the four-hour meeting was whether off-campus textbook retailers should be included with the on-campus vendors in the tax exemption.

Sexton said the committee would look at the laws of other states that have the textbook tax repealed to resolve this issue.

This would be the second time such legisla-

tion has been presented to the Legislature. During the 1997-98 session, Assemblyman Brooks Firestone, R-Santa Barbara, introduced a bill that would have given a 6 percent sales tax exemption for college textbooks.

The bill was killed in the committee on Revenue and Taxation. According to the state Board of Equalization, the sales tax exemption would have meant a \$36 million loss in revenue to the state.

Sexton said he believes this proposed bill would be different since all four college entities of community colleges, private colleges, and California State University and University of California campuses are working together on this project.

"This is a student-developed idea and [students] are bringing it to the Legislature," Sexton said.

As for sponsorship, Sexton said that Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal, D-34th district, has expressed interest in the subject.

Sexton said he and other students will travel to Sacramento to speak with legislators.

The student committee will meet again in a few weeks and begin to finalize the proposed bill.

Doheny Haunted Campus



Courtesy of the Athenian Yearbook

Children from miles around flock to Doheny on Halloween. Parents know it is a safe place to bring the children and the kids know they are bound to have a little fun with events ranging from Trick-or-Treating to the Haunted Mansion. Students and staff from both campuses unite to provide a good Halloween experience.

Around the World

- Pope John Paul II urged richer nations to cancel the debts owed to them by poorer nations on Wednesday. The pontiff says that this will give lesser developed countries the opportunity to "concentrate their resources on improving living conditions, rather than finding ways to secure new loans," according to the Los Angeles Times.

"The problem is complex and has no easy solution, but it must be faced by international lawmakers and resolved," according to the Pope. He warned nations to "follow the path of solidarity, or face a catastrophe."

- Sixteen-year olds eagerly awaiting their licenses in Washington, D.C. may have to wait a bit longer after the passage of a new bill that adds limitations onto provisional licenses. Previously, a 16-year old could get a learner's permit in one day and take the test for the actual license the next day.

Under the new law, which goes into effect next fall, they can obtain a learner's permit at 16 and must drive only with a licensed

driver. At 16 1/2, they may apply for a provisional license if they have a clean driving record and at least 40 driving hours. With the provisional license, a fully licensed driver is only required between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

At 17, assuming they have completed a full year of driving, maintaining a clean record, and have at least 10 hours of night driving, they can obtain a restricted license. They may drive unsupervised from 6 a.m. to midnight and may have two passengers. Drivers must be 18 before they may obtain a license with no restrictions.

- The Indonesian military is being blamed by pro-independence student groups for a riot that left three dead and 22 injured. The troops fired on a crowd of residents who threw rocks as they rallied for independence. The students "alleged that 30 military agents in civilian clothes provoked the crowd and then disappeared," according to the Los Angeles Times.

—Taken from www.latimes.com

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New bill threatens abortion as fetal rights are respected by the House of Representatives...

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House Crime Bill Sure to Bring an End to Abortion

By Brian Pandya

U-Wire from *Daily Collegian*
Pennsylvania State University

(U-WIRE) UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. —

Before you read the headline and start making a judgement about this column, I would like to begin with this disclaimer: This is not your typical essay on the virtues of being pro-life or pro-choice. Now that we have that cannon ball defused, we can begin.

Several weeks ago, a bill making it a federal crime to harm an unborn fetus was passed by the House of Representatives in a party line vote. USA Today reports that the new law "would set criminal penalties for harming a fetus during commission of a federal crime... if the fetus died...the accused could be charged with murder."

Most significantly, the bill recognizes the fact that an unborn fetus is a human life separate from the mother, a tenet of pro-lifers since abortion became legal again in 1973.

The bill's passage received little fanfare, both here at Penn State and nationally, lost in the East Timor crisis, the nuclear weapons test ban treaty and the Pittsburgh-Philadelphia saga. Nevertheless, this bill is perhaps the single largest legislation relating to abortion since the controversial Pennsylvania law

(mandating a 24-hour waiting period) in 1991, if not since *Roe v. Wade* a quarter of a century ago.

Though the bill strictly exempts abortions, the National Right to Life Committee, the Christian Coalition and the Catholic Bishops Conference all either helped draft the measure or supported it, according to USA Today. Clearly, when this bill passes, it will soon snowball and bring an end to abortions in America.

Again, as I said in my disclaimer at the beginning of the column, this statement is not meant to be a criticism of the bill or its supporters, but a fact of life. If not, why was a similar bill rejected, one that would not have recognized a fetus as a separate person, but still stiffened federal penalties for attacks on pregnant women?

The passage of this bill could be the preview of what will be a long battle on Capitol Hill. If you have any pro-life or pro-choice feelings whatsoever, you should take keen notice of what is happening with this bill. If the bill (or a variation of it) passes, or even comes close to passing the Senate next year, the abortion debate will be revolutionized.

Abortion foes should be jumping on the bill's bandwagon since the declaration of a fetus as a human life will give them an insurmountable advantage in their push to stop abortions.

Abortion supporters should protest

this bill en masse; its passage will have the same effect on the abortion industry as the smoking lawsuits did on the tobacco industry.

By declaring that a fetus is a separate human life, we are no longer debating whether abortion is a woman's right to choose but rather, whether it is ethical to kill a human being. Do I need to say which side will win if we are deciding whether we want a baby to live or not?

Obviously, if we believe in the life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all, pro-life forces should not have a difficult time persuading people to extend those benefits to (literally) the newest group in America.

Even if you do not agree with the scenario I just described, ultimately it will become more difficult to get an abortion anywhere in America. As stated in USA Today, persons killing a fetus are subject to murder charges.

The newspaper states that abortion doctors are exempt, but let's say for argument's sake that the bill eventually will be changed because of strong public support so that abortion doctors are not afforded the same protection as they are today.

Fewer doctors and medical professionals would be willing to perform abortions because the consequences would be too steep, with threats of protesters outside

the clinics.

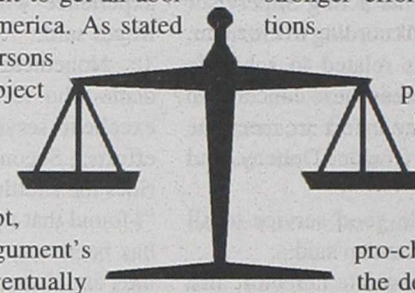
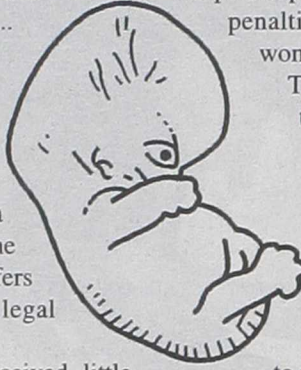
It is psychologically and socially easier to harass an unpopular group, such as someone accused of murder.

Is this bill good for you and for America? Only you can answer that. Though I do not have any deeply held views on abortion, I feel that the bill gives some scientific validity to what pro-lifers have been arguing for years.

With breakthroughs in medicine and prenatal care, babies born more than two months premature have a good shot at survival. Therefore, it is not unreasonable to say that a 25-week-old fetus is a living human and that the bill is actually a precursor to a battle against abortion. All signs indicate that this is a legitimate trend, beginning with the stronger and stronger effort to ban partial-birth abortions.

Since *Roe v. Wade* passed in 1973, pro-lifers have been on the defensive, essentially being forced to argue against women's rights. Now, pro-choice advocates will be on the defensive, trying to resist the pro-life activists' new-found crusade for human rights.

Twenty-six years ago, pro-choicers were able to use women's rights to argue for the Supreme Court's approval of abortion in *Roe v. Wade*. In the near future, *Roe v. Wade* will be inevitably overturned on the merits of human rights.



THE ORACLE

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Cheating: Is It Really Worth It?

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

It is defined as "acts of academic dishonesty that constitutes a serious offense," according to the school handbook. Cheating is something that should never, no matter how desperate, be done. Some ask why not. I say why do it! College is not only considered the best time of your life, but is in preparation for your future career. This should not be taken for granted.

Why would you want to steal an exam or use someone else's work? I would hate to be the person confronted about these types of issues. How embarrassing and shameful it would be!

Who would want a doctor that cheats their way through medical school or a lawyer who bought the answers to the LSAT? Any potential professional that commits such an act of dishonesty, especially cheating, should be punished.

If you believe that you cannot produce acceptable work on your own, get a tutor or get out of the kitchen if the heat is too hot. Change your major. Sure, you want to do your best, but, if it can not be done on your own, what good is it to you?

Also stated in the MSMC student handbook are the guidelines to plagiarism which include the following: "failure to document and give credit to an original source, paraphrasing another person's ideas without giving credit, using direct quotes without proper recognition of the source, and using statistics, facts, or information from a source other than you won original research without giving credit."

As far as documentation, it can certainly be hard to do it correctly. But, at anytime if you are unsure or even if you are sure, document your source.

However, paraphrasing is another story. It can be interpreted differently depending on the person and the situation. Some believe that changing the wording is okay. But, others believe that the entire form and structure should be changed. That is something that needs to be better defined.

Using quotes and statistical or factual information is quite an obvious misrepresentation. Anyone who does this knows that they have violated an important rule and has the possibility of being caught and punished.

Theft is another dishonest action. Stealing things such as examinations and school equipment is a pun-

ishable offense and possibly can result in a jail sentence.

The destruction of materials can also be fined. All of this can be appealed. But, putting yourself through all these trials and tribulations is not the answer.

Stress is a main cause of any dishonesty committed in a college setting. No one wants to cheat, but some feel the need to because they feel that they lack intelligence and confidence to succeed. When, in reality, they can accomplish anything they put their mind to.

Grades can suffer, reputations can be ruined, careers destroyed, and punishment can result from the dismissal of academic integrity.

Editorial: Disaster Drill

The fire bells rang, signaling the day's earthquake drill, as students practiced "duck-and-cover" drills in their classrooms and places of work. The drill was planned to help students be prepared for an actual emergency, but many now wonder if it was really necessary.

A chaotic mess of students, staff and faculty crowded into the Circle on Chalon and waited for the buildings to be cleared from the "earthquake." While pondering the many subjects they could be studying or papers they could be writing, students complained bitterly at the poorly planned drill.

The only thing our drill prepared us for is the chaos we may experience should anything particularly devastating happen on campus. Little evidence of real organization in the drill could be seen as administrators and RAs took note of who had "made it" out of the buildings.

Having lived in Southern California all of my life, I am accustomed to such nonsense. We practice drills we would never carry through when faced with a real quake and waste precious minutes that could be better used in studying for the midterms.

Though I think these drills are pointless, I recognize their value for those who have never experienced a quake. The part I have the biggest problem with is the "walk outside and be counted." From 1st grade I was told never to leave the building because of the danger of falling trees, rubble and electrical wires. If we're going to teach people proper evacuation procedures, we should do it right.

—Joan Fletcher, Editor

The Attendance Policy at the Mount

Pro: Students Must Attend Class

Con: We are adults!!!

By Connie Moreno

Doheny Editor

Success in college depends on many factors. Students must learn to manage their time, find a space in an over-filled schedule for homework as well as leisure time and time for school-related activities. Students must finish homework on time, read required pages of texts and participate as much as possible in class.

Besides doing classwork, one crucial step for the success of a college student is regular class attendance. If students do not attend class they will not get the full benefits of the lecture and discussion and will most likely have problems later on in the semester.

Since many college students have problems with time management, it is easy to skip class in order to do other things, thinking we will be able to catch up later. Sometimes we need a little incentive to get our tired bodies to class and if instructors make regular attendance a requirement, maybe it will give us the extra push we need to get ourselves to class every single time.

I know that this might make us feel like we are back in high school and we think no one should monitor our every move. We might also think that since we are adults we are able to make our own decisions regarding whether or not we feel like going to class. But sometimes we don't understand the importance of going to class. We think we can just ask somebody for the notes, scribble them down on our notebook and be done with it. But if this was really enough, then classes would not be necessary. The point I am trying to make is that attending class is the most important part of college. It is where we are able to learn the most and discuss any questions or comments we might have. If we don't attend class regularly, we are losing out on a vital part of our learning experience.

Instructors who require students to attend class and who even lower our grades if we fail to do so, are only showing us they care. Some students might feel like they are being babied but I

think it is important that our instructors care about our progress in class. They know that it is easy for us to stray and skip class, so they give us an incentive to get us there all the time.

We are fortunate to attend a school that is small and we can get to know the faculty really well. Since our class sizes are usually small, the professor gets to know his/her students better and they can keep tabs of the student's progress. They know how important it is for students to attend class and the class size helps them to keep record of who comes and who doesn't. This doesn't mean they are babying us, it only means they really want us to receive the best college education.

Besides, why wouldn't a student attend classes? We are attending a very expensive school and when we don't attend class, it is like throwing money away. Also, attending classes is part of our education. That is the reason why universities exist in the first place!

When we don't attend class, we are only hurting ourselves and our professors who especially value the importance of attendance. There are times when they genuinely show they care by expressing their concern if we do good or bad. Some students might believe that it is their problem whether they throw money away and never go to class, but is this a smart, adult or responsible way to behave?

Students must realize how important it is to go to class regularly. Since we are paying so much money, why not try to take advantage of it by going to class and doing our best? Maybe, teachers requiring attendance of students is childish, but if we want to prove otherwise, we must show them we can really make smart decisions and go to class all the time.

By Vianney Vasquez

Staff Writer

When one is an incoming freshman, there are many things we look forward to in college. Among them, one is not worrying about attending class every single day. After all we are now in college, and that is what it is all about, right?

That is why it was a shock to me, on my first week of school, to learn about attendance policies.

Attendance policies are given by professors and they make it clear that any student who does not attend class on a regular basis has to suffer consequences of receiving lower grades.

These policies changed my expectations of college. I thought when I entered college that I was a responsible adult, but attendance policies showed me otherwise. They made me feel like a child being punished for misbehaving. In this case, I was being punished for not attending class.

I also felt that I could not be trusted. I had to be threatened about my grades in order to attend class. This reminded me of high school. That was the reason I wanted so badly to get out of there, and now I had to deal with the same thing in college? What an

outrage!

My outrage is not because I think classes are not important, nor that they are not worth attending. It is on the contrary; they are extremely important because we learn from them. After all, that is what we are in college for.

My problem is that I feel like I have been treated like a child. I have been led to believe that college is for adults, but now I am being treated like an irresponsible kid. This is not helping me. It is only making me act like a kid longer.

If I were only treated like an adult, I would act like one. If professors did not have their attendance policies, I would figure out on my own that it is important to attend class because otherwise I would not learn.

Alone I would learn to discipline myself. I would have pitfalls, like failing exams and lower grades for not going to class, but in the end it would be the best thing because that is how I would learn about the importance of class attendance.

In the end, I guess nothing is what you expect it to be. I thought that by entering college I was taking the role of a responsible adult, but I have been proven wrong. Now I know that I cannot even be trusted to attend my own classes regularly.

When I first entered college this was a shock, but as time has passed by I have learned to live with it. I guess there is nothing I can do about it, but act like an immature child a little longer.

Letter to the Editor

What Happened to our Petition?

Dear Students,

About a month ago, a few of us got together and started a petition to change the new cafeteria rule. We were able to get 289 signatures supporting the petition. This letter is to address the progress of the petition.

While I was getting ready to turn in the petition to the President of our college and to Student Affairs, I was informed that since the petition [was not initiated by] RHA, we had to have it approved by them first.

Therefore, the petition and a cover letter were submitted to Brooke Hardcastle, the President of RHA. After bringing the issue to the e-board, they came to the conclusion that they will not turn it in to Student Affairs because the students who signed the petition did not see the cover letter.

At this time, I asked RHA to help us distribute this letter so everyone could comment on it. Unfortunately, this meant another week and another e-board meeting.

After waiting two weeks for a response, I approached the RHA President to see what is being done. She told me that since we both know that the Tupperware idea is not a good suggestion for health issues, the RHA decided that it was not

worth the effort to turn in the petition.

When I asked her why it took RHA such a long time to get back to me, she explained it was because they were still discussing it and she just forgot to keep me informed.

Well, I appreciate the effort of our elected RHA members, but if 289 students have signed the petition, I believe it is worth my time and effort to have the issue addressed in a proper way. Therefore, I am turning the petition to the President of our college and will voice the opinions of the students who are paying the tuition, but not getting the full service.

Another piece of information I would like to pass to you is that if you have a conflict in your schedule, please take it to Mary Grogan at the cafeteria and she will accommodate you. She'll help find a meal service that fits your schedule.

I am sorry it has come down to a "everyone for herself," but it seems no one in administration thinks this is a problem. I wish you a better half of the semester and thank you for all your support.

Sincerely,
Mimmi Yonatan

The Food Service Petition:

"This is a petition for a change in the present cafeteria rule. We are suggesting that the rule should change to one that allows us to take food out of the cafeteria in our own Tupperware, which would prevent the loss of plates and utensils. The cafeteria can also monitor the amount of food taken out."

Cover Letter:

"I am writing this letter on the behalf of the Mount resident students... We have three main points to address besides the solution we suggested on the petition."

1. To begin, the 14 and 19 meal plan was not working well because there was no compensation for the meals we missed.
2. When the present change of policy came about we, the students, were not put into consideration, even though it was going to affect our lives the most. It was a rush decision with money in mind and not the students who are paying for the service. In addition, there was no adjustment period where students might have been able to rearrange their classes around meal times. Although, keep in mind that there are very few selections of classes once you have chosen your major. Moreover, if you need to work, there is no way you can skip work to get your meal.
3. We should be given the choice to remove the meal plan from our room and board. This might not be a solution seeing that there are no cooking facilities and most residents do not have means of transportation to do their grocery shopping, but at least this gives us the choice.

When we turn in this petition, it is in good faith that change will come about.... Thank you very much for taking the time to review this petition."

"Children of the 80s" Spread Offends Students

Dear Editors,

I am writing to comment on your "Children of the Eighties" article, particularly your categorization of Best and Worst Television Shows. The fact that the Cosby Show was listed as one of the worst shows shocked me. I would definitely consider it one of the most positive shows of the 80s, possibly of all television history.

The Huxtable family was such a positive role model, much better than those currently on television. They promoted good moral values, yet were not fake or trite in their presentation. They confronted real issues that people face daily, such as racism, dating and growing up in America. During one of my favorite episodes, Theo was taught the value of money and being grateful for what he had when he came home to find he was now living in the "real world" by having to rent his room, buy furniture and pay for his meals.

Since their show went off the air, no other show has portrayed an African-American family in such a positive light. Today's WB lineup is a disgrace to the image of African-Americans, compared with the Cosby Show. It was a true family show that could be watched and appreciated by all. Of course it was not a perfect representation, but certainly a positive one....

Sincerely,
Melanie Drummond

Editor's Response: Thank you for your response. I want to clarify that the 80s spread was the results of a student poll, not a staff decision. No harm was meant in the reporting of the results of the poll.

DOHENY ASSOCIATE

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Day Commuter
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**International Student
Body Chair**
May Lene Batangan



Courtesy of Monica Villaseñor

"I'd like to change the way
cultures interact with one another
only to see other cultures
to learn about different
cultures and appreciate them."

Associated S

Monica Villaseñor
President

Liza Marie McMichael
Vice President

Lisette Godinez
Jasmine Walker
Historian



Courtesy of 96 Senior Year

Marilyn Ly
Advisor

*"The Doheny ASB is committed to serving the students of the
Doheny Campus the best way possible. They hold a variety of
events through out the year that encourage students to have fun
and to create consciousness."*

—Veronica Villaseñor, President



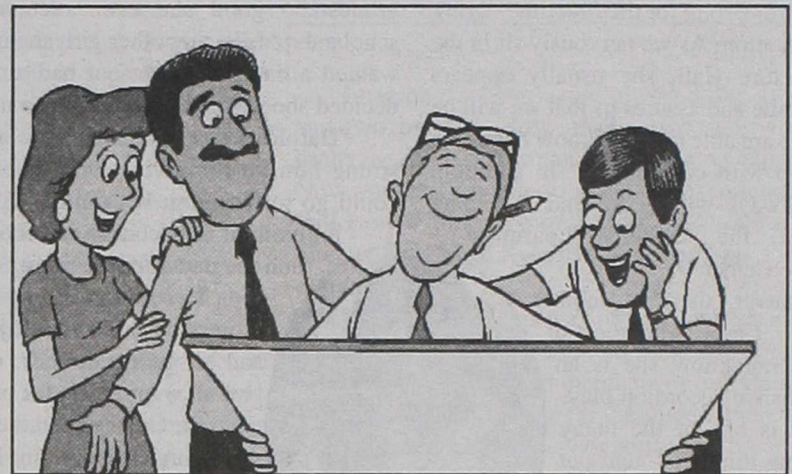
From Oracle archives

*"I am convinced that life is 10% what
happens to me and 90% how I react to it. I want to help my fellow
students realize that we are human and that mistakes are
perfectly acceptable to be honest about our
self-pride refuses us to admit to our
actions, then the only person we fool is
ourselves."*

—Liza M

STUDENT BODY

the way students from different cul-
th one another. We should unite not
r cultures but unite with the desire
different cultures and come to appre-



Monica Villaseñor
Student Body President '99-00

Monica Villaseñor
President

**Commissioner of Dance
Social & Cultural
Activities**
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Margarita Jones Dance

Race Summit

Freshman Senator
Nadia Blanco
Fabiola Zamora

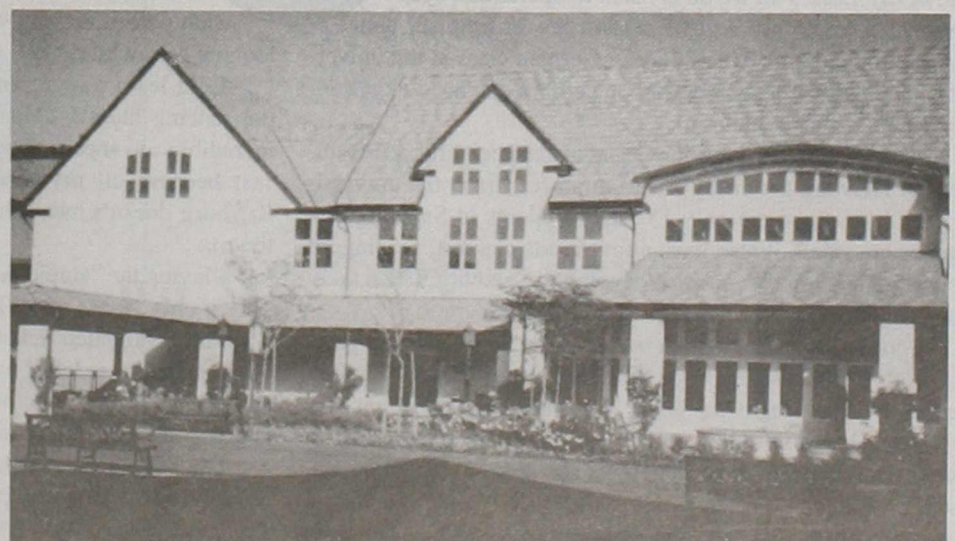
Sophomore Senator
Gina Aguirre

what happens to me and 90%
p my fellow peers to understand
mistakes are in our nature. It is
est about our faults, but when
t to our thoughts, words and
ve feel is ourselves."



Courtesy of Liza Marie McMichael

Liza Marie McMichael, Vice President



From Oracle archives

CSJ Profile: Sister Carol Brong

By Connie Moreno

Doheny Editor

Most Doheny students encounter Sister Carol Brong for the first time during Pre-orientation. As we nervously sit in the cold Lecture Hall, she usually appears with a smile and assures us that we will be okay. We are able to get to know her as we seek help with our studies. In addition, she is always willing to lend a helping hand at the Doheny Learning Resource Center.

However, there is another side of Sr. Carol. I bet most of you did not know she is an accomplished accordion player. That is one of the many interesting things I found out about her in my recent interview with her.

She was very flattered that I had chosen her to interview and was very cooperative and willing to talk to me. She smiled throughout the interview and was very casually laid back.

She began by telling me of her parents and her birthplace. I was surprised to know that she is the second of seven children! I asked her if she minded having so many younger siblings and she said no.

"I used to play house with them and pretend they were my children!"

Sr. Carol was born in El Monte, California. Since her father worked in the aerospace industry, they moved around a lot. They moved to the San Fernando Valley and then to Lompock when Sr. Carol was a senior at Bishop Alemany High School.

"I begged my parents to let me stay so that I could finish high school with my friends." In high school she was very involved, especially the last two years because her parents bought her a car.

"They bought me a '54 Pontiac, and I thought I was hot stuff" said Sr. Carol with a little laugh.

Sr. Carol said she received good grades...so good she even received a scholarship. Like any other girl, she really wanted a date for prom, but had already decided she was going to become a nun.

"Harold was a real nice guy, and I strung him on for a very long time so I could go to the prom with him. I finally told him of my decision to become a nun the day after the prom."

I could tell by her expression that she felt just a tad bit guilty, but hey, don't we all want a date for prom?

Sr. Carol joined the CSJ after high school, in 1961. She says she was sure of her decision but something made her rethink her choice.

"My sister had entered the convent two years before me, but she decided to leave. That made me think if I really wanted to stay there myself, but after a lot of thinking, I decided it was the right thing for me."

Sr. Carol, who is an Mount Alumna, majored in English with a minor in Economics and got her teaching credentials. She taught fourth grade in Pleasant View, then moved to Long Beach and then to Pascal, Washington. Sr. Carol said she enjoyed being a principal in the elementary schools.

"Being a principal gave me the opportunity to do nice things for the teachers and the students."

Like any other person, Sr. Carol has gone through some tough times in her life, but it has never been so bad that she would question her decision to becoming a nun.

I asked her how she has gotten through the tough times, and she said "Prayer is very psychologically good for the person, knowing that God loves you and that he is there for you."

She also says that life in community is very enriching, but sometimes it can be difficult. "Having to share everything with people is sometimes hard but you make the best of it."

Sr. Carol admits that there are very positive things about life in community. "I like to pray with them and hear how life is going for them. We also have fun together. We go to our house in Lake Gregory and have a lot of fun."

I asked her if she was worried about the decline of women choosing other careers than the nunnery. She says yes, but it has a lot to do with the times.

"Women today have a lot of opportunities that they didn't have 30 years ago, the Church now provides women with the opportunity of having leadership positions."

She also believes that priests should be able to marry.

One of her favorite things to do is going to the women's jail on Sundays.

"The women there are so grateful when we go to see them. It is real important that they know how much God loves them."

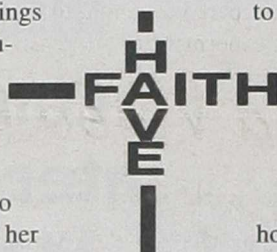
Sr. Carol has been at the Mount for 11 years now, and says she loves it. As our talk was winding down, I asked Sr. Carol to give some last words to the Mount community in general.

"I want to thank them for letting me working with them. I love it so much I am not eager to move on! I also want to say stop complaining and look at how much good we have".

She also had some advice for the stressed out students. "Some students come in very sad because they failed a test but I tell them, in 20 years you will [still] be a good woman, it's not the end of the world."



Courtesy of 97 Athenian Yearbook



Suzi's

Study Abroad Adventures

By Suzi Schroeder

Staff Writer

The first weeks of class have come and gone without too much incident, other than an injured wrist from falling on my face in dance class. Good thing I don't fence left-handed!

The strangeness has not worn off yet. So many things are different here. However, I like it. We don't have classes on Fridays, and there are many holidays, partially because Salzburg is 98% Catholic, and we get cool holidays like All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day. I have more vacation than class!

I can't really complain about my schedule. In one of my classes all we do is listen to operas and symphonies. Two of my regular classes are in English, and two are in German. Then I have a German class at the university. There are 100 people from 30 countries in the class (wonder what language that's in).

All my classes except for German are special for AIFS students. They are taught by Austrian professors at the university, but since there are only 15 AIFS students in Salzburg, the classes are small. I also have a few sports classes: fencing, of course, dance (there's no Irish dancing in Salzburg, I checked), and climbing.

Sports classes are a great way to meet Austrians and practice your German since they are offered through the UNI sports center and are taught in...guess what language! In fact, my dance teachers know how much German I can speak (next to none) and won't let the other students speak to me in English, so it's a challenge. That's helpful because I have found most Austrians speak English, and once they find out you're from the USA, you can't get them to shut up. I think nearly every

young person I have met has asked me why in the world I would leave Los Angeles to come to Salzburg.

The University of Salzburg does not have a campus. Instead it is spread out in buildings all over the city (and you Chalon students thought going from DH to 5th floor Humanities was bad). Some of my classes are a 15-minute bus ride from each other, normally with only 15 minutes to get there.

Finding my classes presented another problem. Different numbered rooms are in different buildings, and continuous room numbers may not be next to each other, they may be on a whole different floor accessible only by a different staircase (we spent 15 minutes looking for one of our classrooms). If the room you are looking for doesn't have a number (like the one simply called "music"—now what part of the city would that be), well then you may be looking for awhile!

I did learn a few things.... I need a new dictionary since the fencing class I translated as intermediate was more like incredibly advanced. Toe rings are not common in Salzburg. Just because all my other sports classes are in the city of Salzburg doesn't mean they all are (climbing is in a different town).

Playing the "stupid American" can get you out of jams, but only if it only works once (like when you've been riding the bus with an unvalidated ticket to save money). Most importantly, when in language lab if two students are sharing a station don't tell stories (especially ones of questionable taste) over the headset since the prof can hear you (I learned the hard way...).

Oh well...at least I'm ending the week on a happy note. I only have four research papers to write this semester, and I'm not going to procrastinate at all! Really, I'm going to start working on them tomorrow.



First Writers Series Predicts Successful Future

By Melissa Cruz

Page Editor

"My hope is that we will bring in a nationally known author who is a graduate from Mount Saint Mary's College," said Marcos McPeck Villatoro, the Fletcher Jones Chair of Writing, when asked what his goal is for the new Writer's Series here at the Mount.

The Writer's Series is a collaboration between the English department, Art department, and the Fletcher Jones Chair. Jody Baral, chair of the Art department, and Villatoro, who is a published writer himself, coordinated this series in an effort to give students a chance to meet internationally known writers and to encourage the literary community here at the Mount.

Because "more ethnic writers are influencing the literary canon," Villatoro says that he wants to bring an ethnically diverse group of writers, and he would like to "focus on women" to encourage our students in their own endeavors.

On Monday, October 11, 1999, the first reading in the Writer's Series brought Francisco Goldman, author of *The Long Night of White Chickens* and *The Ordinary Seamen* to the Chalon campus. *The Long Night of White Chickens* was a finalist for the Pen/Faulkner Award and earned Goldman the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction.

In addition to his reading, students were given an opportunity to ask Goldman questions and have him sign their books. This experience personalized the literary world and for many students was the first time they had met a published writer.

"You don't have to be an English major to appreciate good writing or to be a good writer yourself," says second-year Julie Purzycki. There are no requirements to attend these readings. You can majoring in Biology or Business; it doesn't matter.

The Writer's Series is here for everyone who wants to participate, not just English majors.

Students from surrounding college campuses and family and friends of Mount students are also welcome to attend. Anyone who loves to read and has some time to spare should attend.

Many students who went to the reading are now eager to buy *The Long Night of White Chickens* and *The Ordinary Seaman*. "Once you hear the author read his work and discuss it, you are eager to read the rest of his work because his voice is in your head," says Purzycki.

For the next installment of the Writer's Series, Villatoro has lined up 1994's Pen Oakland Award winner, Marilyn Chin.

The incredible turnout at the first reading of the series suggests that they had better start rounding up more chairs.

Approximately 90 people attended Goldman's reading and word is spreading.

Look for more information on Marilyn Chin's visit to the Mount in March of 2000.

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Homophobia and Hate in the Heartland: Boys Don't Cry

By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer

I have been eager to see the new film *Boys Don't Cry* ever since I heard talk of its production over a year ago. I knew a bit of background about the movie from news stories and articles about the tragic tale.

It was inspired by the true story of Brandon Teena, a Nebraskan native who was living with a "sexual identity crisis," as she puts it in the movie. The actress who plays Teena Brandon/Brandon Teena is Hilary Swank. Her name might not ring a bell, but her face would.

She has starred in a variety of made for TV movies, commercials, and the formidable Beverly Hills 90210. You may also remember Swank from her roles in the films *The Next Karate Kid* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

In *Buffy* Swank played one of the snobby friends that looked and acted as if she were a protegee of a Valley Girl. It was quite a stretch from yellow leather jackets and chewing gum to play Brandon Teena.

For her role in *Boys Don't Cry*, Swank had been quoted in saying she wanted to become her character. In order to do that, she had to have her long blonde hair cropped off and dyed

brown, she had to strap down her breasts, and put a sock in her pants.

Swank was incredible in the film. Her portrayal of Brandon Teena was amazing. Not only was she convincing physically as a boy, but the emotion she put in the role was equally breath-

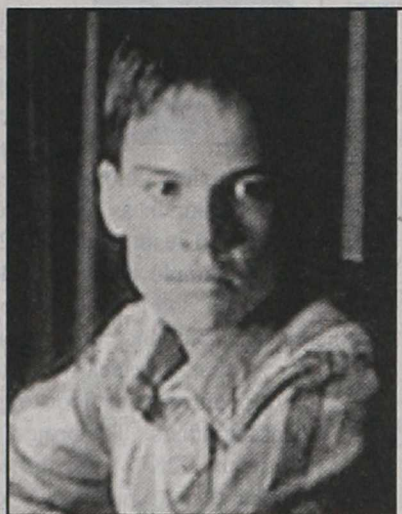


Photo Courtesy of Fox Searchlight Pictures

Left: Hilary Swank as Brandon Teena in *Boys Don't Cry*. Her portrayal of a young woman who lives as a young man is both beautiful and tragic. Swank had to live as a man even before filming started. She would tape her breasts and uses socks as her male appendage.

taking. At one point in the film, I completely forgot she was a girl and just admired the blooming relationship of Swank's character and her love interest, Lana (*Last Days of Disco* and *Kids* star Chloe Sevigny).

The movie also stars Peter Sarsgaard, who gives a haunting performance as a white-trash drunkard named John. Also appearing in *Boys Don't Cry* are Jeannette Arnette, Matt McGrath, Alicia Goranson, who was

the original Becky on the television sitcom "Roseanne," Alison Folland, and Brendan Sexton III.

This isn't a story based on transgender or homosexuality. It is a film about the life of an incredible young person, born with a physical sexual abnormality, and how she lived and died as a boy. It reminded me of a convoluted Romeo and Juliet. Brandon and Lana were two young people in love, separated by factors beyond their control.

This film touched me in places I didn't know I had. There were a few scenes that triggered so much emotion in me that I had to bury my face in my boyfriend's shoulder.

I highly recommend this film to anyone who wants to see film-making at its best. Director Kimberly Peirce uses time-lapse filming during the movie that gives the sense of

chaos in a quiet mid-western town. The casting couldn't have been more perfect.

This film was made with integrity and respect towards the memory of Brandon Teena. I will be surprised if this film doesn't get nominated for best film, actress, director, or supporting actress as far as Academy Awards go. Go see *Boys Don't Cry*, and be prepared to laugh, to cry, and to question normality.

Fullerton Staff Shows Talent in "Love Letters"

By Lauren Chilstrom

and Jasmine Mohiuddin

Page Editors

Imagine a set consisting of two desks, two chairs and two people. Now imagine the most romantic, funny, heartfelt performance you've ever experienced. Now you may be able to grasp the experience that is Fullerton College's production of "Love Letters," directed by Chuck Ketter. Ketter employs a different cast each night.

Ketter states "This play has only two characters, a man and a woman, I wanted to bring this lovely story to life using the talented members of our Theatre Arts Faculty. This is a chance for the students and the community to see what these wonderful artists can do outside the classroom!"

Stars Chuck Ketter and Aryln McDonald communicated the depth and love of a fifty year friendship. The story, written by A. R. Gurney, was witty, poignant and filled with real life experiences riveting enough to hold you captive for the whole play. In short, "Love Letters" received a tremendous emotional response from the entire audience. Many people, men and women alike, were seen leaving the auditorium teary-eyed.

"Love Letters" is a surprisingly emotional experience that should not be missed. Hurry before it's gone.

WHO: Fullerton College
WHAT: "Love Letters"
 by A. R. Gurney
 Directed by Chuck Ketter
WHEN: Fri. Nov. 5 at 8 p.m.
 Sat. Nov. 6 at 8 p.m.
 Sun. Nov. at 2 & 5 p.m.
WHERE: Fullerton College
 Bronwyn Dodson Theatre
 321 East Chapman Ave
 Fullerton, CA
 Box Office: 714-992-7433

The Diva's Movie, Music and Video Highlights for November

Hey Party People, it's Julie, the Mount Diva. I'm back with some hot movie, music, and video releases for the coming month.

This Month in the Theatres...

• *The Messenger: Joan of Arc* Starring: Milla Jovovich, Faye Dunaway, Dustin Hoffman, John Malkovich
 Plot: About the life of Joan of Arc

Rated: N / A

• *The Bone Collector*

Starring: Denzel Washington, Angelina Jolie, Queen Latifah
 Tagline: Two cops on the trail of a brutal killer. They must see as

one, they must act as one, they must think as one, before the next victim falls.

Rated: R, for strong violent content including grisly images, and for language.

• *Light It Up*

Starring: Vanessa L. Williams, Forest Whitaker, Usher Raymond

Plot: A group of teens is bent on improving the run-down conditions of their high school.

Rated: R, for language and violent content.

• *The Insider*

Starring: Al Pacino, Russel Crowe

Plot: True story of tobacco executive-turned-whistleblower Jeffrey Wigand and his relationship with "60 Minutes" producer Lowell Bergman.

Rated: N / A

• *Dogma*

Starring: Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, George Carlin, Linda Fiorentino,

Salma Hayek, Chris Rock, Kevin Smith, Janeane Garofalo.

Plot: The last known descendant of Christ is called upon to save the existence of humanity from being negated by two renegade angels trying to exploit a loophole. Look

for a cameo appearance by Alanis Morissette as God.

Rated: N / A

Video Releases

• *The Bachelor*

Starring: Chris O'Donnell, James Cromwell, Mariah Carey.

Plot: A romantic comedy in

which Chris O'Donnell's character has 24 hours to get married in order to receive a \$100 million inheritance.

Brooke Shields plays his suddenly re-interested girlfriend.

Rated: PG-13, for language.

• *Three to Tango*

Starring: Neve Campbell, Matthew Parry, Dylan McDermott

Tagline: All's fair in the war of love.

Rated: PG-13, for sex related situations and language.

• *Life is Beautiful (PG-13)*

• *Notting Hill (PG-13)*

New Music This Month...

• "King of the Hill"

Original Soundtrack

Elektra

• "Go Simpsonic with: More

Original Music from the

Television Series"

Original Soundtrack

Rhino

• "This Desert Life"

Counting Crows

Interscope

• "Live in Concert"

Natalie Merchant

Elektra

• "Chronic 2001"

Dr. Dre

Interscope

• "There Is Nothing Left to Lose"

Foo Fighters

RCA

• "Rainbow"

Mariah Carey

Columbia

with Jay-Z guesting on

"Heartbreaker"

• "Northern Star"

Mel C

(aka Sporty Spice)

Virgin Records

with Sex Pistols' Steve

Jones guesting

• "The Battle of Los Angeles"

Rage Against the Machine

Epic

• "Willennium"

Will Smith

Columbia

with Wyclef Jean, Biz

Markie, Slick Rick and

Jazzy Jeff guesting

--Compiled by Julie Purzycki



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Cultural Connections: What's Down South?

By Maya Gaddie

Staff Writer

Louisiana is one of the many southern states that retains original traditions. I am a native of that state. I was raised in a small city called Slidell. It is about 25 minutes from the Eastbank of New Orleans, pronounced N'awlins. There is also a Westbank which is less popular. The same traditions are carried out in both cities.

Mardi Gras is a well-known celebration. It is always the second Tuesday in February. The season starts after New Year's on January 2nd. Parades start soon after that. Although this celebration is carried on in other places, such as Brazil, it has a style all its own.

Beads are one of the things that are used to celebrate. They come in various colors, shapes and sizes. Beads are so popular that many will do anything to get their hands on them to wear around the neck. "Flashing" is also a popular occurrence.

King cake is a round cake with a hole in the middle, like a donut shape. It is part of the traditional Mardi Gras cuisine. It is very soft and is normally topped with the official Mardi Gras colors of purple, green and yellow. It is served in several ways. It can be filled with cream cheese, apple, cherry, or strawberry filling. The most popular flavor is plain with a cinnamon topping.

Parades are the main attraction of Mardi Gras. They are where the phrase "Throw me something, Mister" is shouted. There are two well-distinguished parade courts, Rex and Zulu. Both have kings and queens of Carnival. Both crews observe the tradition of having an older well-established man as king and a young college girl as queen.

The food of New Orleans attracts people from all around. New Orleans is known for its rich and spicy foods. Crawfish Etoufette is a dish that is poured over rice and is made with crawfish, Louisiana Hot Sauce and lots of spices. At times, other seafood such as shrimp is added for variation.

Gumbo is another great tradition. It can be made in so many ways. Chicken gumbo and shrimp gumbo is the norm. The most popu-



Courtesy of Maya Gaddie, Taken from a Mardi Gras postcard

lar is fixed with a mixture of seafood. First, the rux, a thick, highly seasoned brown sauce is made with onion, garlic powder and flour. Separately simmered is crab meat, oysters, shrimp, and sausage. It is poured over a bed of rice. It is usually served with potato salad and French bread.

Another great traditional food is red beans and rice. It is cheap and easy to make. An entire family can be fed for only about five dollars. The beans are cooked for three hours and are soaked beforehand to make them softer and easier to cook. Pigtales and sausage are usually added.

Pickled pigs' feet are another favorite. They come in a jar and can be purchased from the ice cream man. However the "ice cream man" does not serve ice cream. Snowballs ranging in flavor from Bubble Gum to Pina Colada are served instead with an option of condensed milk.

Beignets are another tasty treat. Beignets, started by the French, is a

soft, sweet bread dipped in powdered sugar. Cold milk or Community-blended coffee with chicory can be served as the beverage. But, usually, Daiquiri's are the choice drink. There is a Daiquiri shop on every corner. There are also drive-thru shops so you can get your Daiquiri on the go.

The infamous Popeye's Chicken was began in New Orleans. Turtle soup, alligator meat, barbecued goat meat, praline candy and oyster corn bread stuffing are everyday favorites.

France once owned Louisiana. The impact and influence of their culture lingers even today. The Creole, who are part-French, are a well-known ethnicity. Creole, Creole Spanish and Cajun are among the various languages spoken. They are all derived from French.

The French Quarter is like the Sunset Strip with a twist. Bourbon Street, although it cannot be driven down, is a popular party strip. It is lined with voodoo shops, hot night spots and department stores.

Toulouse, another street in the French Quarter, contains shops and sites to see. A carriage ride through the "Quarter" at night is always romantic. The French market is a great place to buy cheap vegetables.

Canal Street, the main street downtown, has lots of hotels and restaurants. Streetcars, known as cable cars in other areas, run along the street as a tourist attraction.

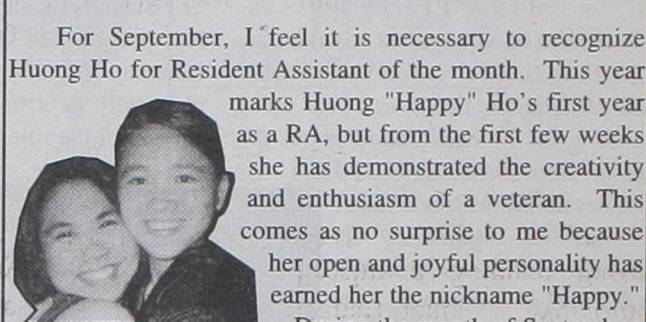
The Riverwalk and the RiverFront are popular hangouts for teens and adults. The Riverwalk is frequented on the weekend. "The Front" is the Sunday spot. The Riverboat Casino is an attraction for the older crowd.

Mardi Gras, great food, the French Quarter, and the many attractions are just a few things that make it naturally New Orleans.

Of The Month... Huong "Happy" Ho

By Millicent Ongaco

Contributing Writer



For September, I feel it is necessary to recognize Huong Ho for Resident Assistant of the month. This year marks Huong "Happy" Ho's first year as a RA, but from the first few weeks she has demonstrated the creativity and enthusiasm of a veteran. This comes as no surprise to me because her open and joyful personality has earned her the nickname "Happy."

During the month of September, Huong created innovative ideas with the desire to promote unity and kindness on the floor. For example, a concept which she is using called "Y2K" is similar to the "Random Acts of Simple Kindness" idea. Y2K stands for "You're Too Kind" and is used to show gratitude to individuals for their kindness and compassion.

At first, this idea was established to provide a way for the residents on her floor to get to know one another while thanking others. The project soon took a life of its own as numerous Y2K's were turned in daily and it became so popular that it spilled onto other floors in the Residence Halls. Now it has become a tremendous part of the Mount society.

Her efforts in making the floor home for us has always been a priority. Happy always takes time out to talk and get to know all of her residents and her infectious smile catches everyone's attention. The majority of the residents that live on first floor Brady are Freshman and many of them come from out of state. It can be extremely difficult getting used to a foreign place, but Happy does her best to keep her residents involved and active in the Mount community.

Our annual Athenian Day is a "mini Olympics" where all are able to participate. This year Happy was able to form three teams consisting of six people, beating all other floors. [Only two teams competed in Athenian Day]. She even gathered enough residents to form a cheering squad. As it turns out, the floor was recognized for best sportsmanship at the event. Happy has a way of getting people actively involved.

Happy is a RA that truly cares about the residents on her floor and goes beyond the obligations of a RA. She is dedicated enough to ensure the welfare of her residents and promote the well being and happiness of the Mount Saint Mary's community. Academics is an essential part of college life, but so is life in the residence halls. Happy understands this and does her best to take care of Brady first floor. I strongly urge you to recognize Huong Ho for RA of the month for September.

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Huong Ho and Millicent Ongaco! This OTM won regionally, making Ho the September RA of the Month.

Activity Board: Fun Events Happenin' On and Off Campus

Friday

- ASB Blood Drive, 10 am to 4:30 pm, Lecture Hall
- Zap Mama, 8 pm, UCLA Performing Arts, \$35, 25, 20. "...Zap Mama channels the soul of the African Diaspora into music with a distinctly urban heart."

Saturday

- VSA Food Sale, 11:30-1 on the Weekend College Patio.
- Dia de los Muertos, Arroyo Secco Park. Join Mount students from 5-9. 5568 Via Marisol, Highland Park.

Sunday

- VSA Food Sale, 11:30-1 on the Weekend College Patio.
- Na Pua O Ka 'Aina TV Taping, 10:15-2.
- *VSA Feed the Homeless

Monday

- IROC Craft Sale
- "Refugees" to open at Theatre 40 at 8 pm, \$12, students \$6. 241 Moreno Drive, Beverly Hills. For reservations, call (323) 936-5842.

Tuesday

- DOCS Club meeting, 5-6.
- Muses Bake Sale, 11-1:30.
- Freshman Class Meeting, 9:30-10 in Brady 1st Lounge.
- "Imperial Sculptor" by Adriaen De Vries, Getty until January 16, 2000.

Wednesday

- Na Pua O Ka 'Aina meeting, 9:15-10:15.
- VSA Food Sale, 11-1:30 on the Weekend College Patio.
- Freshman Class Meeting, 2-2:30, Campus Center.

Thursday

- Muses Bake Sale, 11-1:30.
- FASA Bone Marrow Drive, 11-4, Campus Center.
- "Religion, Race & Revolution: The Roots of Latin American Theater," Getty Lecture, 7 pm.

Friday

- "Covering Kosovo," Community Room, Times Mirror Square, 7:30 pm, sponsored by LA Times.
- "William Eggleston and the Color Tradition," Getty Museum, continuing from October 26 until January 30, 2000.

Saturday

- Na Pua O Ka 'Aina Barbecue, 3-5.
- Festival of Jewish Artisans, Temple Isaiah, arts in a variety of media.

Sunday

- "It's Ju-Jitsu Time," Residence Life Office, 4-5:30 in Lecture Hall.
- ISA goes to "It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues" at the Geffen Theatre, shuttles leave at 1 pm from both campuses.

Monday

- IROC Craft Sale
- Na Pua O Ka 'Aina Goods Sale (Food and Materials will be on sale), 11-3, Little Theatre Foyer.

Tuesday

- Na Pua O Ka 'Aina Goods Sale.
- VSA Art Poster Sale, 10-5
- Senior Yearbook Photos, 8:30-5:30, Campus Center
- Holiday Boutique Crafts and Bake Sale, 9-4, Chalon Lecture Hall, portion of proceeds goes to charity.

Wednesday

- Na Pua O Ka 'Aina Goods Sale.
- VSA Art Poster Sale.
- Senior Yearbook Photos, 1:30-8:30, Campus Center.

Thursday

- Biology and Chemistry Departments' Welcome Freshmen Science Party, 12-2.
- VSA Art Poster Sale.
- Undergraduate Yearbook Photos, 8:30-4:30, Campus Center.
- UCLA Performing Arts presents Hilary Hahn, musical prodigy, 8 pm, \$35.

Friday

- Sixth edition of *The Oracle* comes out.
- The Negro Problem with the UP Choir: *A Night on Desolation Row*, Getty Museum, 7:30 pm

The Oracle

Mount St. Mary's College
12001 Chalon Rd. Los Angeles, CA 90049
10 Chester Place, Los Angeles, CA 90007

November 22, 1999

Volume 5,
Number 6

VarsityBooks Lawsuit

By Alexis B. Offen

Harvard Crimson
(Harvard U.)

(U-WIRE) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. --

The head of VarsityBooks.com lashed out Monday at college bookstores who are suing the company over claims of false and misleading advertising.

Chief Executive Officer Eric J. Kuhn portrayed the suit as an attempt by profit-motivated stores to deny students "choice, convenience and discounts."

"This lawsuit is completely without merit," said Kuhn. "Old guard monopolists are threatened by the new kid on the block."

The suit, brought by the National Association of College Stores (NACS), challenges VarsityBooks.com's claim that it offers savings of up to 40 percent. The lawsuit contends that only a small percentage of its books are offered at 40 percent below what it calls the "Suggested Price."

The suit does not seek monetary damages, but seeks an injunction to force the company to change its advertisements.

The suit reflects the increasing competition between Internet book vendors and college bookstores. Over the past year new on-line retailers have emerged, offering students options beyond the traditional campus store.

By cutting out overhead costs such as inventory expenses and large staff, virtual bookstores can offer prices below retail. Yet how much of a discount on-line vendors offer is a matter of dispute.

Kuhn responded to the claims of false advertising by noting that consumers understand that savings of "up to 40 percent" does not imply that all books are discounted by that amount. He said consumers are capable of

informed comparative shopping.

"College students are smart enough to look at a price at a campus bookstore and a Web site," said Kuhn.

Not everyone agrees with that line of reasoning. Marc L. Fleischaker, the lawyer for NACS, said the suit isn't about consumers' intelligence or their abilities to shop comparatively, but about misleading the public.

"Of course students are smart, as are any consumers, but that doesn't make false advertising permissible. Under that theory, you could say it's 1000 percent off," Fleischaker said.

The suit also claims that the "Suggested Price" on VarsityBooks.com's Web site is misleading because no such "Suggested Price" exists in the textbook publishing industry.

Allan E. Powell, the Harvard Coop's corporate general manager, said while other publishing industries offer a suggested price, "most textbooks don't come with a suggested retail."

While students have a variety of on-line book vendors to choose from, NACS sued VarsityBooks.com because it was the "most prominent false advertiser," according to Fleischaker.

NACS is also currently looking into VarsityBooks.com rival BIGWORDS.com, which advertises as offering up to 50 percent off.

Current laws do not set parameters for how a company can advertise its discounts. The suit against VarsityBooks.com will rely on prior case law.

"There is no federal guideline as to what 'up to' means," said Matthew Daynard, a senior attorney with the Federal Trade Commission's Division of Advertising Practices.

"It's not clear how consumers view that claim," Daynard said.

Doheny Gains Cultural Clubs

By Connie Moreno

Doheny Editor

Recently, Mount St. Mary's was voted among the top 15 colleges in the nation for the diversity of its student body. The Mount is, in fact, very diverse. Evidence of the diversity can be found in the many clubs on campus. They represent the many different ethnic diversities that color the Mount's rainbow. There is something for everybody. We have the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA), Na Pua O Ka 'Aina (the Hawaiian Club), Pangkat Pilipino, Latinas Unidas, and the African American Council of Women (AACW) among others.

Many of these clubs are based primarily on the Chalon campus, which creates problems for Doheny students who wished to be part them.

Enter Mariel Rafanan and Kristy Yamanoui, two sophomores from the Doheny campus who are now heads for the Pangkat Pilipino and the Hawaiian club, respectively, at the Doheny Campus.

Rafanan, a second year student, is the President of Pangkat Pilipino at Doheny. She states "the main goal of the Philipino Club is to make students aware of Philipino culture and to

make the students here at Doheny more involved with the campus".

Pangkat Pilipino at Chalon and its Doheny counter part will be working side by side through out through out the year.

"We will hold Barrio Fiestas at Chalon and we will have Philipino dances and Philipino food."

Rafanan emphasizes that the club is open to all ethnicities, saying "you don't have to be Philipino to join the club. We invite everybody to join".

Another club that now has a Doheny chapter is the Hawaiian club. Kristy Yamanoui, also a second year student at the Doheny campus, is the President of the club. Yamanoui also says, "anybody can join the Hawaiian club, you don't have to be Hawaiian."

Yamanoui wants to bring forth all the beauty of the hawaiian-culture to the students of the Doheny campus.

If you are looking for a cultural organization at the Doheny campus, try the Pangkat Pilipino and the Hawaiian club. Two recent additions to the Doheny campus that serve to show how diverse and multicultural our college really is.

Backstreet at the Mount



Joan Fletcher, *The Oracle*
Claudia Almanza and friends dance to "I Want It That Way" in Chalon's Circle as part of Almanza's video for MTV's FANatic. Almanza hopes to meet her favorite music group, the Backstreet Boys. Along with the dancing scenes, Almanza shot various interviews of friends and acquaintances attesting to her fanatical following of the Boys. See story, page 6.

Mount News Briefs

•The Great American Smokeout took place on Friday, November 19, 1999. This day was dedicated to help people quit smoking. Assistance was offered on campus and people across the nation banded together to fight against the addiction of smoking.

•The International Food Fair, held on November 18, 1999 on the Chalon Campus. There was representatives from the Guatemalan, Vietnamese, and Cajun cultures. Food prices ranged from \$1.50 to \$2.

This ASB-organized event gave clubs the opportunity to raise money for themselves through providing an enriching cultural culinary experience for Mount students.

The Holiday Craft Boutique was held on November 16, 1999 in the Lecture Hall. Various crafts were sold at this event in preparation for the holiday season. Some of the crafts sold were beautiful painted vases, little Santa figures and various other Christmas items.

•ISAE went to the Geffen Playhouse to see "It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues." Participants were satisfied with the performance, saying it was an enriching cultural experience that highlighted the Blues culture. It traced the history of the musical period and the roots of the movement. The play also had a clear message about the brutality of slavery.

Inside:

Get both sides of the genetic testing issue. Is it a benefit to society or a sign of the disintegration of all that is moral? ...Where I Stand, Page 3

Learn how to defend yourself through various methods of self-defense and martial arts. Learn the dos and don'ts... In-depth, Pages 4-5

Interested in Walking To La Milpa? Read the review of Professor Villatoro's first major novel. Pop Culture, Page 7

Check out the Activity Board to find out about what's happening on and off campus. Last Thoughts, Page 8

The Benefits of the Human Genome Project

By Lauren Chilstrom

Page Editor

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the words "genetic testing?" If you're like many people, these words raise some level of apprehension, confusion and perhaps even fright. Maybe some clips from the movie "Gattica" flash through your head.

What would you say if I told you that in just a few short years, scientists might be able to improve the diagnosis of diseases, detect genetic predisposition to disease early in life, create new energy sources and readily match organ donors with potential recipients? Sounds good, right?

Ladies and gentlemen, I have just described for you some of the potential benefits of the completion of the Human Genome Project, the ultimate in genetic testing.

The Human Genome Project (HGP) was started in 1990. Its major goal is to make a map of the entire human genome that would map all of the 80,000-100,000 genes and the 3 million DNA units (called nucleotides) that make up human DNA.

To accomplish this, scientists are also studying fruit flies,

mice and Escherichia coli, bacteria found in the human intestine.

With this information, scientists will someday be able to focus less on how to treat symptoms of a disease and more on the fundamental causes of the disease. Just imagine if doctors were able to replace the defective gene for breast cancer long before any symptoms presented themselves.

This could save so many lives and prevent unnecessary procedures, such as preventative mastectomies. In addition, faster and more specific tests for countless disorders will make for earlier and more rapid diagnosis.

Through comparative genetics with other organisms, scientists have already been able to discover similar genes associated with diseases and traits. With further studies, the functions of many other genes may soon be discovered.

Amazingly, the Human Genome Project is also providing tools for better understanding and tracing the roots of human evolution. By tracing mutations through certain genetic lines, evolution and the migration of certain genes may be discovered.

Also scientists are comparing certain points in the evolution of some gene mutations with the ages of populations and historical events, perhaps to draw a correla-

tion between genetic and environmental events.

Aside from medical breakthroughs, advances in environmental technology will stem from this technology.

By sequencing the genomes of other non-human organisms, scientists hope to produce new nontoxic products and processes that they hope will open the door to a cleaner environment.

Already, enzymes from microorganisms are being used to bleach paper pulp, stone wash jeans and break down starch in brewing. Soon, there may not be a need for harsh, environmentally toxic manufacturing chemicals.

As part of the project, scientists are addressing the ethical, legal and social issues that have arisen with this discovery. The most pressing question: who is to have access to this information and how will it be used?

Once the entire genome is mapped, scientists will be able to locate the genes that control everything from hair color to breast cancer. Who will be allowed to use this information and for what purpose?

Though some people prefer not to know, many will want their doctor to tell them how tall their unborn child will be or if there are any potentially harmful disorders in their genome.

I think that the most difficult part of this project will be deciding just how much people should know about their own genes. It is difficult to decide just where to draw the line. I don't believe that people need to know what color eyes their child will have or if they will have a certain body type.

Those kinds of things are not going to have a significant impact on their quality of life in the future.

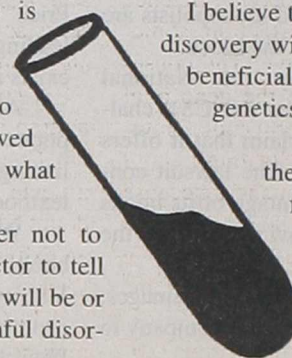
However, there are certain disorders and conditions that if detected early can be effectively treated, perhaps even before symptoms present themselves.

I believe that people should be made aware of these conditions, if they are interested in that information so they will be able to make more informed decisions about their own health care.

Though this research is almost completed, there are still many things to be worked out before any of the information can be made available for use.

I believe that in the end however, this discovery will be the most important and beneficial research in the field of genetics.

It will not only unlock the genetic code that has baffled scientists for so many years, but it has the potential to change and improve the quality of life for people around the world.



THE ORACLE

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Letter to the Editor

The Importance of Walking Safely

On my drive to Mount St. Mary's campus each week, I occasionally am reminded that I was hit by a car while walking when I was 18 years old. I frequently see students who are walking the "loop" on streets that have no sidewalks, which are dangerous for pedestrians. If there is no sidewalk, always walk facing the traffic so that you can see if a car veers in your direction. Each year in Los Angeles, thousands of pedestrians are hit by cars and many are killed or seriously injured. Don't be a tragic statistic; walk facing the traffic.

Barbara Lewis, Self-Defense Instructor

Editorial: On Campus Lighting

Do you find your late-night walks darkened by the idea that anyone (or anything) could be hiding in the bushes to your right and there is not enough light provided to allow you to see them? Do you feel the college has inadequate lighting along many of its paths. If so, you are not alone. Lighting complaints are a chronic problem for any university. Just how much light is enough and does enough necessarily mean safe? Administrators have grappled with this issue for years with little recognition from students. Now is the time to recognize the problem and the steps that have been made to remedy them.

In my two-and-a-half years at the Mount, I have personally had a problem with the poor lighting on campus. It is difficult to walk around campus alone at night when I know that any type of wild animal, beast and human alike, may be lurking unseen in the darkness. While there are parts of Doheny that are rather dark at night, I find that the lighting there is much more adequate than what was provided at Chalon. At least the main paths on the Doheny campus are well-lit so that students may see what dangers may be in their path.

In recent months, new lights were installed on the Chalon campus, making the trek down the hill from the Circle to the Campus Center much more bearable. It started with a large hallogen light installed over the stairs leading to the Campus Center. This lit up the whole patio as well as the walkway. I was very happy to find that I could now see where I was walking on my way up and down from night classes or newspaper meetings.

A second light now brightens my evenings a bit

further up the hill. The timing of its installation was impeccable as the natural light has begun to fade earlier and more students find their late afternoon or evening classes letting out to a previously unknown darkness. The second hallogen light was installed at the end of the Weekend College Patio on the Fourth Floor of Humanities. Its light shines down on the darkened path of the road leading up to the Circle. While the previous light helped at the end of the journey to the Campus Center or parking structure, there had been few lights to guide students down the actual hill. We can now thank our administrators and Physical Plant staff for installing this light which now gives us a clear view of what danger may be coming down our path, be it a shuttle, car or wild animal.

I feel it is necessary to recognize the improvements made on campus so it does not seem as though they are made in vain. While it is very important to voice our opinions, complaints and suggestions, it is equally important to recognize the good being done.

On that note, I am very happy to see that our concerns are being considered and our needs being met. It is a great thing when a college administration can work together with its students to learn what needs to be fixed and what steps can be taken to improve the campus. Though I am extremely happy with the lights, there are many other things we should now concentrate to change. Always recognizing our achievements, we should continue to strive for the best on our campuses and work together for the benefit of all.

By Joan Fletcher, Editor

Gene Testing Goes Too Far

By Andrea Parker

Mustang Daily
(California Poly State U.)

(U-WIRE) SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. —

Want to know if you really are sick? Ask a doctor. Want to know if you will have a terminal disease in the future? Ask a geneticist.

Science has taken us too far this time. According to an Associated Press story, doctors, thanks to genetic science, now have the capability to give a gene test to predict that person's future health. This revolutionary medical technology essentially puts a person's health almost completely in their hands.

Sure, I'd want to know if I was going to have cancer in order to prevent it—just like I'd love to know who my future husband will be. I'd never have to worry again. Who hasn't said they'd like to predict the future?

We can joke about it because it's never been a reality. But this new genetic testing is up there with cloning each other or selling the eggs and sperm of beautiful people. Science is on the eternal quest for perfection, something we are not meant to have. The consequences of such meddling in the gene pool cannot possibly be fully comprehended now.

We shouldn't even have to think about the moral and physical consequences because we humans should never be tampering with God's designs. But we are here, at the dawn of directing our own genetic fate, and the consequences are real.

One woman put her faith in the gene testing. The doctors did not tell her the tests were not 100 percent accurate. The results must have indicated she was going to have ovarian

cancer in the near future because, according to the article, she had her ovaries surgically removed.

She was later notified that the company responsible for the test had made a mistake. Because of the genetic testing, this woman may never have the opportunity to pass her genes on to future generations.

There are merits to knowing the future genetic health of a potentially fated individual. According to the article, gene tests can ease people's worry about a disease they might be prone to or alert them to take preventative measures. Right now most of the 600 gene tests are used for rare diseases in families plagued by certain maladies.

Soon, the tests will be routinely available for currently healthy people to predict their future risks of certain diseases. There are two problems I have with this. Genetic testing will either be used to predict the inevitable, there are alarmingly high risks for cancer in seemingly everyone, or genetic testing will serve as one link in the chain of perpetuating an irresponsible lifestyle.

I could be a heavy drinker, overweight glutton and chain smoker, take the test, find out I've mutated my genes and ask for the miracle surgery or drug (that will have no doubt been invented by then). Granted, this is an extreme argument, but confidence in such science is misdirected.

Instead of trusting in science made by man, trust in God. Relying on technology for salvation will end in disillusionment and decay. Science is poised to take us where God never intended us to be.



Policy To Deter College Admission: New Drug Policy Causes Fear in College Hopefuls

Michigan Daily Staff Editorial
University of Michigan

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich.—

Increased emphasis placed on the importance of attaining a higher education is constantly contradicted with obstacles, be it on the basis of race, gender or specific qualifications. This time, the targets are past drug offenders.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. Department of Education passed a regulation that will prohibit students who had been convicted of drug-related crimes from receiving financial aid for college.

Taking effect July 1, 2000, convicted students will be ineligible to receive such awards as Pell Grants and student loans depending on the severity and number of offenses.

One conviction of drug possession will hinder a student's receipt of financial aid for one year. Two convictions will prevent assistance for two years and a third count disqualifies the student indefinitely.

One conviction of drug dealing will obstruct a student's eligibility for financial aid for two years. More than two convictions will indefinitely deny assistance.

Qualification for financial assistance will be reinstated if the student participates in and completes a rehabilitation program. But the law provides that even the possession of marijuana can disqualify a student from receiving aid, and many health professionals do not think physical marijuana addiction is possible, essentially making the policy useless.

Such a regulation is well on its way to deterring many students from receiving higher education. Students are expected to report their convictions honestly on their college applications, since criminal records cannot be cross-referenced by

the Department of Education.

Students caught misrepresenting information on financial aid forms will face felony charges.

Many students formerly convicted of drug possession or dealing turn their lives around by applying for financial aid to attend college.

Such a law will frighten and deter them from applying for financial assistance, which ultimately could thwart them from applying to college altogether.

In addition, this bill directly affects the socially and economically disadvantaged. Every drug user is not poor, but people without adequate funds to pay for a college education will suffer more than others.

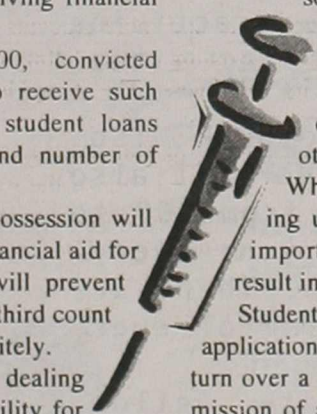
While curbing the continuously rising use of drugs among teenagers is important, scare tactics notoriously result in failure.

Students will be deterred from the college application process, rather than be inspired to turn over a new leaf. Chances are, their submission of an application is the first step in changing their lives.

Penalizing them for a possibly minor drug conviction from a few years before is a ludicrous method of drug reform, not to mention unfair. Whatever happened to the doctrine of learning from mistakes?

This bill has many glitches. Strong oppositions exist not only among students, but also police officials and many committee members of the Department of Education.

This rule would not only hurt prospective college students who made a mistake a few years ago, but it will prevent the nation's colleges and universities from enrolling the most academically qualified students.



We Want Our Cable TV!

By Carmen Quinonez

Page Editor

For two years now, the Residence Halls have been equipped with "cable ready" wires veining against the walls. For two years they have been just that, ready. As a third year student, I realize that my time here at the Mount is winding up. And what can I say about my recreational time?

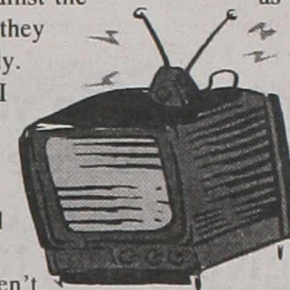
I can say that I haven't seen decent reception since my time at Doheny, and even there it is fuzzy. What does reception have to do with cable? A lot. With cable, you can get rid of that pesky antenna that almost poked your eye out.

You also get additional channels if you just don't feel like watching T.G.I.F., or need to catch up on The Real World.

In my quest to find answers, I first directed my questions toward Residence Life. I was prepared with plenty of questions, but they boiled down to "why isn't there cable in the Residence Halls?"

I found out that it wasn't due to figuring out a way of controlling the bill between two or more residents in one room, or parents not wanting their daughters watching what isn't shown on TV. Instead, it's about money.

Of course, you might say, but it turns out that it is really expensive. The reason it is so expensive is because the cable company doesn't want to charge the Mount the same rate as a household would be charged. Rather they would bill us an overall price, \$50 to \$150,000 yearly, for both campuses.



So why does UCLA have cable? Yes, they probably have more funds. But as Larry Smith the Assistant Vice President of Information Support Services explained it's an issue of cost as well as technology. They want to make sure they purchase the right technology, and technology is changing rapidly. So they are careful to invest in something that will last. Trust me, he tried his best to explain all the technicalities of it, and I do not envy his job.

As much as he knew I wanted to hear we are going to get cable sometime before I graduate, he assured me they would try to at least get better reception for floor lounges.

"We were one of the last schools to get email" explains Jenny Hernandez, the Assistant Director of Residence Life.

She adds, "It's going to be a slow process to get cable and I know that they are just trying to find what best fits our needs."

Jenny was a student here as well, and she went on to say, "I feel everybody's pain. It's not a necessity but it would be nice to have it, just like other schools."

Yes, it would be nice to have, and I am starving for decent reception. It's a pity to have a 19-inch Magnavox just sitting there. In the meantime, the best reception is said to be in Rossiter, Brady Third Floor, and Carondelet Fifth Floor, though that is also debatable. As they struggle with the inconvenience of a few snowy channels, the rest of us anxiously await the day we'll all be able to get Channels 4 and 5.

Graduating in Spring 2000?

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**Monday,
November 22!!!**

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for more information.

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Common Sense

"Do's"

- Carry your keys in your hand as you walk to your car or to the residence halls. This not only prepares you, allowing you to open the door quicker and easier, but it gives you a line of defense. If you are attacked, the key can be used as a weapon to ward off your attacker.
- Always park in a well-lit area.
- Be confident when you walk alone, with your back straight and arms swinging at your side.
- Walk in heavy strides.
- Make yourself look dangerous.
- Be alert and watch what is going on around you.
- If attacked, make noise. Scream and shout to scare off your attacker or to summon help.
- Use your hands, feet, elbows and knees as well as your fingernails and anything else that may help to ward off attackers.
- Calm down and think. Getting exciting and scared will only put you in more danger.
- If you are being followed by a car while walking, turn around and walk back the other way. The car will have to turn around, placing it on the opposite side of the street.
- Be careful when using the ATM. Be aware of your surroundings.

Taekwondo

Taekwondo is only one sport that can help you to defend yourself in a violent and life threatening situation. It originated in Korea around the 1860s. It consists mostly of kick movements and hand strikes. But, the meaning for it is hand and foot. While practicing Taekwondo, you not only learn to protect yourself against any situation, but also gain physical and mental fitness.

This sport encourages you to concentrate on your schoolwork also. While working on the aspect of concentration in your schoolwork it also helps to keep weight gain under control, burning anywhere from 500 to 800 calories per hour. It is supposed to become a part of your everyday routine once you begin practicing the art of Taekwondo. There are four commands that are followed and repeated at the beginning of every class.

There are also belts to earn ranging in color from white, yellow, orange, light green, green, blue, red, red-brown, and black. Each school varies in the color of belts given and the sparing techniques used to reach each new belt.

There are also many words to be learned with the introduction of each new belt. Jum-be and Tan-ju are just a few words that must be put into practice everyday. It takes hard work and self-control, but is worth all of the effort in the end. Once you get focused and put all the techniques and rules in to practice a difference will be noticed.

The presence of a stronger hearter and firmer body will be obvious. Of course there are other ways to become physically fit such as Karate, Kickboxing, Tai Chi, and Boxing, but, whatever you choose to participate in, it is necessary for you to put an all-out effort in order to achieve the goal of true fitness.

—Maya Gaddie, Assistant Editor

Walking alone down a street, minding your business, you begin to feel someone is watching you. Casually looking around, you see a very suspicious person following you. What do you do? Run and hide? Or maybe you plan to confront him, hoping he's friendly. What if you knew you were able to defend yourself? Various self-defense techniques are taught at the Mount to give students the opportunity to learn how to defend themselves if necessary. Take the necessary steps to protect yourself. Check out the new classes and prepare yourself. You never know when you will ever find the need for your skills.

Use Self-Defense

Walking down a lonely street, feeling your own business, you feel like someone is watching you. Casually looking at a very scary looking man, what do you do? Do you run? Do you play it safe and ignore it? Wouldn't you rather be able to protect yourself if you had self-defense and martial arts skills? To give us the opportunity to defend ourselves if ever we need the necessary precautions, we will show you the various methods of self-defense and the need to use your skills.

"Don'ts"

- Don't look like a victim. Avoid looking vulnerable.
- Don't panic.
- Don't be afraid to hurt your attacker. Use anything you have to keep the attacker away from you.
- Don't walk down dark alleys. Only walk down well-lit streets.
- Never advertise you aren't home either through a note on your door or on the phone.
- Don't let callers know that you are alone.
- Avoid wearing headphones when jogging alone. It prevents you from being aware of potential dangers. The wires hanging from your ears also announce to the world that you are unaware of what is going on around you, making you vulnerable.
- Don't wait for a situation to escalate before you take preventative measures. Call the police as soon as you feel you are in danger.

Kickboxing

This is the third semester I have taken a kickboxing class here at the Mount and many first-time takers ask me "why?"

Why would anyone want to take a P.E. class that takes up all your energy and leaves your muscles feeling like every ounce of strength has been sucked out of them? For me, the reason is because I love it. Kickboxing gives me a chance two days out of the week to feel like an athlete again.

After playing basketball from the fifth grade to my senior year in high school, every fall and summer, I needed a class that would help me keep some of my endurance and strength at a level where I could still go hiking or play a pick-up basketball game with my friends without getting out of breath in five minutes. Kickboxing does just that.

Even though the class is only Mondays and Wednesday, it allows me to get my body moving after a lazy weekend or relieve stress in the middle of a week that seems never-ending. From the large group warm-ups to the small group stations with the focus pads or the punch-kick combinations at the punching bags to the ab work-out at the end of class, I am constantly moving. This keeps my heart rate up and my energy constant. Though exhausted, sweaty and beet red when it's all over, I leave class feeling healthier, stronger and empowered. Whether it is the roundhouse kicks and flying elbows to the punching bags or the punches thrown into the air, I leave class with the confidence that maybe I could stop some guy from mugging me on the street or get back at my big brother after all those years of torture.

Whether you want to be a kickboxing superstar or just want to release some stress once in a while, kickboxing is the class for you. When you are looking for one more class to squeeze into your schedule or just need one more credit, check out the kickboxing classes. Who knows, it may be just what you need.

By Christina Bell, Contributing Writer

Backstreet Experience on the Mount

By **Connie Moreno**

Doheny Editor

If you happened to have been on campus on Thursday, November 4, 1999 you might have noticed that five girls who were dressed in similar clothes, standing in the middle of the circle, dancing to a Backstreet Boys song that has been endlessly playing on the radio, "I want it that way".

Your reaction must have been one of surprise and amusement and then you might have asked yourself, "Why in the world are these girls doing this to themselves"? Believe me, I asked myself that same question while I was out there in the cold, pretending to be Kevin. I am here to finally explain the purpose of the whole shereade.

Claudia Almanza, a junior who is majoring in Political Science, is a devoted Backstreet Boy fan. About two three weeks ago she saw the MTV show FANatic and a girl interviewed 98 Degrees. This illuminated her and she thought, "I'm going to do this with the Backstreet Boys". So she went to the MTV website and she looked up the rules and regulations.

She read the rules and millions of ideas began to fester in her mind.

Her first step was to start a petition which stated she was a true Backstreet Boy fan. She was hoping to collect 500 signatures, 100 for each member of the group but she

was only able to collect around 405. She had to harass her friends to appear on the video as witnesses stating how much she adores these boy-wonders.

After, she thought she had to do something outrageous and original. "I thought it would be a good idea to have five girls dancing to a Backstreet



Lisa Laguna, *The Oracle*
The Backstreet Girls dance to the tune of "I Want It That Way" in the Chalon Circle.

Boy song. My friend Loraine told me volunteered her dancing talents and choreographed "I want it that way". We had five girls and each girl would play a Backstreet Boy. I loved the idea". She went to her friends, and persuaded them to appear in the video dancing.

"April McClellan was the one hardest to convince, I wanted her to be Brian. Luckily, she finally said yes and she went all out on the circle!! The other members of the "Backstreet Boys" were Connie Moreno (me!!!) as Kevin, Loraine Alonzo was A.J., Manda Molina was Howie. Claudia was Nick since he is her favorite

because, according to her, "he is hoooooot"! Claudia was grateful Manda even did it because "she doesn't like the Backstreet Boys at all".

So after long hours of practice, the dance was ready to be witnessed by the whole campus. We bravely went to the circle at 12:50 p.m. In the middle of the whole school, with students, administration and staff watching us, we blared out the song and danced as best we could.

"We had a really big turnout and the girls were very supportive. The girls holding the signs I had made were swaying back and forth. It was a really cute touch." She doesn't know if she'll get it because they have already done FANatic twice. "I'm really looking forward to it, I really like them because they seem so

approachable, like they aren't full of themselves". Claudia promises that she will let all of us know if she does. "I will tell the whole school, don't worry about that."

To finalize she wanted to say "thank you to all the dancers, Manda, Connie, Loraine and April. The girls who signed the petition and especially Millicent Ongaco and Joan Fletcher, who did 'I want it that way' in sign language. Also, my bosses at the Learning Assistance Center, Michelle Lewis and Aretha Crout, who let me change the desktops on all the computers to show blown up picture of the Backstreet Boys!"

From my major... Sociology

By **Norma Marquez**

Assistant Doheny Editor

My major is one that is stereotypically classified as being easy. It has its ups and downs, but I have come to realize that my major is quite versatile. There are numerous emphases that one can add to the major to spice it up. The emphases are Criminology, Global Studies, Medical Sociology (affiliated with Gerontology), Race, Class and Gender, Communications and Social Services. What major offers all these exciting options? SOCIOLOGY!

Dr. Pamela Haldeman heads the Sociology Department. Last year, one of Sociology's very own faculty was awarded faculty of the year, Dr. Sandra Bunce. Both professors are advisors to the many students who are becoming part of this growing field.

According to the Mount St. Mary's College catalog, Sociology is "the study of people as they live and interact with one another within a multitude of contexts, from family, the community and workplace, to the regional, national and global arenas. Sociology seeks to advance understanding of human behavior and the evolution of societies, both historical and modern."

"The major helps students prepare for professional careers in such areas as human services, criminology, urban development, family relations, social science research, race/ethnic relations, and employment in a wide range of government agencies as well as non-profit organizations. Sociology also provides an excellent foundation for graduate studies as in social work, public and urban policy, global studies, counseling and law." (MSMC catalog, 1999-2000, p 273).

As one can see, Sociology as a major can be the door to many diverse career opportunities. I am majoring in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminology and with this I plan on pursuing a Masters degree and then, onto law school. With this major I feel that I have been academically prepared for my future in international law or for whatever life has in store for me.

Suzi's Study Abroad Adventures: Traveling in Europe

By **Suzi Schroeder**

Staff Writer

The nice thing about being in Europe is that you are so close to so many things. In the time it takes to drive to San Diego, I could be in Munich. I plan on taking advantage of Austria's location, right in the middle of everything. Sure, I'm not going to travel every weekend, but I need to add some new stamps to my passport.

None of us in the AIFS program have Friday classes, so every weekend is a good weekend to travel. There are also a plethora of holidays in Austria, so we frequently have longer weekends. We just had two five day weekends in a row. So of course, I went traveling...

I have traveled alone before, not extensively, but I had traveled in Europe, so I had an idea of what to expect...or so I thought! I think I've had more travel adventures in the past few weeks than in my entire life.

For our first long weekend, no one was going anywhere I wanted to go. They were going to places like Italy or Amsterdam. I, being the travel rebel, had tried in vain to find a companion to go with me to Istanbul (I had to promise my mother I wouldn't go alone) but no one would be coerced into going to a "scary country." I wanted to go somewhere, but I couldn't decide where. Finally I narrowed it to somewhere warm. So I closed my eyes, pointed at my map and made a plane reservation the next day to go to Crete.

I am not afraid to go by myself. Besides, I would not be alone. I would have Bruno, my trusty side-kick (Bruno is a stuffed dog that belongs to the 1st grade class of the Tri-city JCC in Arizona. I take Bruno on my trips and he mails the class postcards to teach them geography). So while my roommate packed warm clothes, I tossed my swimsuit, towel and a few tank tops in a bag and vowed to do nothing but lay on the beach for 5 days. It didn't work out that way.

My train ride to the airport in Munich and flight to Athens went off without a hitch. However, airlines in Greece are not as customer service-oriented as the ones in the US. I was informed that I would not get a seat on my connection to Crete because it was overbooked, but I could wait for 4 hours until the next flight and they may

be able to get me on that.

Well, there was no room on that one either. So I spent 10 hours in the Athens airport speaking Deutschlish (like Spanglish only with German) to a Swiss couple who was also trying to get to Crete. I did manage to get there, only instead of arriving in Iraklion, the capitol, in the afternoon, I arrived at midnight and went right to the youth hostel.

This youth hostel, as it turns out, is the biggest dump in all of Crete. There were no sheets or blankets, which is not uncommon, but you can usually rent them...not here. It was dirty and had no toilet paper. Oh yeah, and there is no beach in Iraklion.

After sightseeing with a nice Aussie, I set out to a nice little town with a clean youth hostel and a beach. I seriously considered ditching a few days of class to stay on the beach some more, but that idea didn't last long because my roommate was likely to put out an APB on me if I didn't show up for class! Besides, I had arranged a nice cruise to the island of Santorini, so I had to return to my favorite city (but I didn't stay in the hostel).

The cruise was a rip off. The food was horrible (it was a 4 1/2 hour cruise) and the informational meeting about the island was a pitch for the optional excursions, which I begrudgingly booked. My excursion involved winetasting (Greece is famous for horrible wine) and the black sand beach. It was not worth it. I could have hopped a bus and spent many more hours on the beach. Then, at dinner, drinks were not included, not even water.

However, Crete is very beautiful. I did a lot of shopping (it's cheap there), drank fresh-squeezed orange juice, tried lots of local food, and went to the beach.

Then I had to head back for my two days of class after which I set off for Prague. This time I was going with a friend. We sent off on an early morning train. However, when we got to the border, my friend discovered she had forgotten her passport, and since we were traveling on a joint ticket they kicked us off the train.

No one spoke much English and we waited for 3 long hours in the cold before being able to get back to Salzburg. We missed getting the train back to Prague that day, so we decided to try again the next day. However, we had to buy another ticket. I waited for my friend at the station until that last possible minute then,

guiltily hopped the train when she didn't show up. I called her from the border and found out she had slept in, but she met me in Prague. I waited for 4 hours, then left a message for her and decided to go see the city since it took me 2 days to get to it.

My hostel, although clean, was up 5 flights of stairs and literally attached to the train station, but it was convenient. I met fellow students from Salzburg on the train and we tramped all about Prague together, people-watching on the bridge, drinking coffee and eating bagels. We saw castles, towers and churches and tried the local food (there is a special way to drink the local liquor call Absinth).

My camera was stolen, so I spent a lot of time in the police station. Unfortunately, the translator was unavailable and so I couldn't translate my report into English for my insurance. My brother was upset that I managed to get his new camera stolen, but I was more upset that all my pictures of Greece were lost. However, Prague was still a magical place, it really is the most beautiful city in all of Europe.

Even though these trips brought me tales of woe to add to my growing collection, for every horror story I have tales of goodness. A shopkeeper in Prague gave me a Babushka doll (a wooden stacking doll) and directions to cheap eateries. I have gotten free meals, rides to train stations, souvenirs, advice and bus tickets from people who are truly nice human beings.

In an increasingly violent international society, it is easy to forget that nice people still exist and that for every time you've had to chain your backpack to the bed, there are plenty of times nice, trustworthy people will watch it while you go use that bathroom.

I did learn the backpackers creed "never stand when you can sit, never sit when you can lie down, and never pass up a free chance to use the bathroom." I spoke German to many people on trains and while waiting in line. I also had an adorable girl speak to me in rapid-fire Czech while I smiled and nodded, replied to the half question "your last name is German" (the other half is so why don't you speak German)

But my adventures have not changed my mind about traveling in the least (though they have reminded me as to why I like to travel alone). I'm not traveling this weekend, but I'm already planning my next adventure. Hmmm, shall I go to Italy, or Budapest.



Doheny Located in Heart of LA

By Vianney Vasquez

Page Editor

The Doheny Campus is quite a small place, but its size does not keep it from being an enjoyable place. It is filled with enormous trees and beautiful Victorian-style houses. It is a great place to relax.

Those are not the only assets of this beautiful campus. We also have the privilege of being located in downtown Los Angeles, putting the campus right in the center of everything LA has to offer.

To begin with, Doheny is only feet away from the famous Figueroa Corridor. There are a variety of places to visit there.

Currently, one of the most popular places is the new Staples Center, which is the new home of L.A.'s basketball team the Lakers. In this very attractive place many important events are held including the most popular concerts. The very first concert was given by Sting and Ricky Martin's sold-out concert is this month.

In the Corridor, there are also numerous restaurants to satisfy every tongue. There is the Italian restaurant Pasta Roma. It is said to serve delicious Italian food at reasonable prices.

Figueroa is also known for being fast food heaven. That is because restaurants like Carl's Jr, McDonald's, El Pollo Loco, Jack in the Box, and KFC can all be found there.

Doheny is a lucky place because it has a variety of places to shop. It is located no more than a mile away from the Fashion District. In the district many things at very affordable prices can be found, but what it is known for its clothing.

They have the most recent fashions for a low cost.

Things like dresses, shoes, skirts, and shirts are the type of things that can be spotted in the district for no more than \$20 a piece.

No more than two blocks away from Doheny is the "Village." In the Village there is a wonderful place to go grocery shopping. The 32nd Street Market offers fresh vegetables and fruits at good prices. There is also a Baskin Robins and a Starbucks to grab a scoop of ice cream or a cup of coffee when the stress is at its height. In the Village, gift shops, restaurants, and even a movie theatre, can be located.

Conveniently enough, the Doheny Campus also has at least two of the best libraries in the city right around the corner. The library of the University of Southern California is only within a walking distance.

Also, the city's library, the Central Library, is a short bus ride away, on the corner of Figueroa and 5th Street. This last one is not only a source of information, but also a place for relaxation. It can also be seen as a museum.

The Central Library has an interesting appearance that takes away the boringness a library can have. It has interesting art on its ceiling and a little gift shop for souvenirs. It is not only heaven for research, but also a great place for entertainment.

Lastly, Seven-Eleven is only a few feet from Doheny. This is a well-known haven for those who need to grab anything like snacks, fruits, coffee, fast food on the run. The best part of 7-11 is that it's open 24 hours a day.

In the end, the Doheny Campus can be considered a very small place. That does not make less exciting, though. On the contrary, it is located at the center of everything that is going on in the city. That means that the Doheny campus has the best of everything.

Book Review: Walking to La Milpa

By Melissa Cruz

Page Editor

After taking a few classes with our Writer in Residence, Marcos McPeck Villatoro, I decided to read one of his novels. I picked up *Walking to La Milpa*, Villatoro's memoir describing the years he spent in Guatemala, and could not put it down until I finished all one hundred and seventy seven pages.

The novel begins with some background information on Villatoro and his wife, Michelle, and then draws the reader into their lives as missionaries in the small town of Poptun. In this small town, villagers and soldiers live in uneasy coexistence while the threat of death is to escape Marina's prying eye. Despite the brutality of the government and the consistent presence of the army, the townspeople make the best of their predicament and find solace in their friendships.

One of the things I found most surprising about this novel was that it was very funny. Villatoro adds some humorous anecdotes for comic relief, which is sorely needed. The horrible reality of the violence in this small town was so skillfully woven humor that I found myself chuckling when only pages before tears welled in my eyes. Later I realized that humor was one of the weapons that the people of Poptun used to combat despair.

There are light moments in the novel, the most memorable of which is the chapter "Sex in the Jungle." If you thought that lovemaking in the jungle was a glamorous idea, think again. Between Villatoro's graphic explanation of problematic climate conditions, physical ailments and the troop of ants that interrupt, it becomes impossible to romanticize any longer.

Though the intermingling of Spanish and English may be daunting to those who are not bilingual, the language is handled well and there is little need for translation. The story moves along quickly, slowing only to go into detail on important events such as the raping of a nun or an abandoned child that the community cares for. Villatoro focuses on the lives of the villagers and their struggles despite the hardships he and Michelle are dealt.

Walking to La Milpa is a wonderful series of stories that allows the reader to live in small Guatemalan town during a time of great despair. It is a testament to hope and to courage, both of which are found in the hearts of the villagers.

If you want to read about overcoming adversity, the life of a missionary or if you just want to read about interesting people, consider *Walking to La Milpa*.

Dogma Makes Fun of Religion

By Veronica Salinas

Contributing Writer

Dogma, written by David Smith, who also wrote and directed "Clerks," is a movie in which a mortal played by Lina Florentino teams up with the most flawed characters from heaven (played by David Smith and Jason Mewes) to save the earth.

Linda Florentino, the protagonist of the movie, is the great, great cousin of Jesus, who is going to lead the quest to prevent two selfish angels, Loki and Bartleby (Matt Damon and Ben Affleck) from getting into heaven.

It is ironic that Bethany (Florentino), the savior of existence, works in an abortion clinic and religiously attends church every Sunday despite her doubts about Catholicism. She was left by her husband when it was known she couldn't conceive children.

Bethany is visited by an angel who is supposed to be the voice of God. He tells her that she is to go on a mission to save existence from two angels who were banished for eternity to Wisconsin for disobeying God.

Loki and Bartleby find a way to get back into

heaven and, uncaring of the end result, set out on a killing rampage in the name of God on their way back to the gates of heaven.

The cast also includes Chris Rock, who plays the so-called 13th apostle and Selma Hayek, who plays an ex-Muse turned stripper.

Smith uses Chris Rock as a tool in raising doubt of the real story about the life of Jesus Christ. Hayek tells Bethany that God is a woman, played by Alanis Morissette.

The movie, although preachy at times, was a cleverly but funny spin on the profession of faith and disrespect of the true believer.

It uses Catholicism to venture into questions of creation, making comments like the fact that we would be stupid not to think that the Virgin Mary and her husband never had sex. It also raises the question about whether God is white or black, man or woman.

Coming from the viewpoint of a non-practicing Catholic, I thought the movie was clever but funny. It made a lot of good points. One particularly interesting point is on the whole notion of religion. It seems to say that religions are not really the creation of God but of man.



Octo Exurbe Exhibition Art Gallery

By Carmen Quinonez

Page Editor

OCTO EXURBE, Latin for "eight from the city" is a very fitting title for the eight artists who have worked at Los Angeles Community College. The works displayed are all prints, each with a style of their own.

As I toured the Jose Drudis-Biada Art Gallery here at the Mount, I had a hard time believing each of the artists' works are prints. Usually when you think of a print you might imagine solid black and white forms. These are far from plain old block forms.

I was completely surprised as

to the variety of styles that can be produced in prints. Many of them were colorful, and most of them had some form of writing incorporated into the artwork. They are very original and imaginative.

I was very inspired by their artwork. Some are very amusing, like Agustin Baron's *The Art Critic*. It pokes fun at overbearing critics.

When I saw the words "Art Sucks" I was shocked, until I saw the title, then I began to laugh.

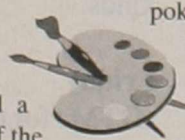
There are also some deeply personal statements by the artist themselves in their work. Like this one by Carla Tott entitled *Moment*. It literally is a moment in the mind of the artist.

The exhibition premiered on Sunday November 7th and will continue through December 11th. It is the last exhibition during this semester.

I highly recommend spending some time browsing through the gallery. There is much to see and talk about. Take a friend or spend some time alone to appreciate the effort put forth by these talented artists.

Show your support for these local artists, and if you have the budget, you can walk away with a print starting at seventy dollars.

I am hardly one to criticize art, but I know it when I see interesting artwork, and you will definitely not hear me saying "Art Sucks."



New Music Releases

November 23rd

Sugar Ray, "Falls Apart"
Krust, "Coded Language"
Jaze, "Have You Ever Loved Someone"
Trisha Yearwood, "You're Where I Belong"
Vonda Shepard, "Read Your Mind"
Metallica, "No Leaf Clover"

Albums

Nas, *Nastradamus*
Dave Matthews Band, *Listener Supported*
Soundtrack, *Friends Again*
Third Eye Blind, *Blue*
Beastie Boys, *The Sounds of Science*
Beck, *Midnight Vultures*
Blondie, *Blondie Live*
Violent Femmes, *Live Greatest Hits*
Alanis Morissette, *Unplugged*
Metallica, *S & M/Metallica with the San Francisco Symphony*
Soundtrack, *Man On The Moon*

November 30th

Lou Bega, "Tricky Tricky"
Kid Rock, "Only God Knows Why"
Eiffel 65, "Blue (Da Ba Dee)"
Nine Inch Nails, "Into the Void"

Albums

J-Shi, *My Soul, My Life*
Sisqo, *Unleash The Dragon*
December 7th
Christina Aguilera, "What A Girl Wants"
R.E.M., "The Great Beyond"
Sisqo, "Got To Get It"
Tal Bachman, "If You Sleep"
Tina Turner, "When The Heartache Is Over"

Albums

Mandy Moore, *So Real*
Sheryl Crow, *Live From Central Park*
Kelis, *Kaleidoscope*
Notorious B.I.G., *Born Again*

Cultural Connections: the Deaf Struggle for Recognition

By Joan Fletcher

Editor

In our multi-cultural society, we tend to fashion our definition of culture along gender lines. We label people according to what we "know" about that culture. Using these stereotypes and generalizations, we make assumptions about the person. Sometimes they may seem to accurately describe the traditions of a particular culture, but the majority of the time they are merely unfair stereotypes.

On one campus in Southern California, students talk little of race as a means of defining culture. Though they are a diverse group, they consider themselves part of one culture, the Deaf culture.

There are many aspects of Deaf culture to consider. First off, some Deaf distinguish between those who simply can't hear (the deaf) and those involved in the rich culture (the Deaf). In the same way, there are two types of people who can hear, the Hearing, who care and acknowledge Deaf culture, and the hearing who can merely hear sounds.

Why is Deaf culture so important? Lacking the ability to communicate through spoken word, the deaf use a visual language. In the United States, American Sign Language (ASL) is most accepted language. It has its own grammatical system, different from Signed English.

Living in a silent world where ASL is just now

being recognized as an official second language, the Deaf appreciate the efforts of those who attempt to communicate with them in ASL. The language is very important to their culture. It is not only a form of communication, but an art. With expressions such as signed song, ASL communicates feelings through the beautiful flowing signs.

As with all cultures, the Deaf struggle with issues of discrimination and stereotypes. They are often labeled as "deaf and dumb" or "mute" when the population as a whole is anything but stupid or quiet. There are countless Deaf leaders in our society whose intelligence benefits us all. The great composer Beethoven was deaf in the last years of his life. He was never able to hear himself play his masterpiece, the 9th symphony.

When called "mute," many Deaf friends of mine wonder how society could be so naive. The deaf are anything but quiet or mute! Have you ever spoken to a deaf person? They can be quite loud!

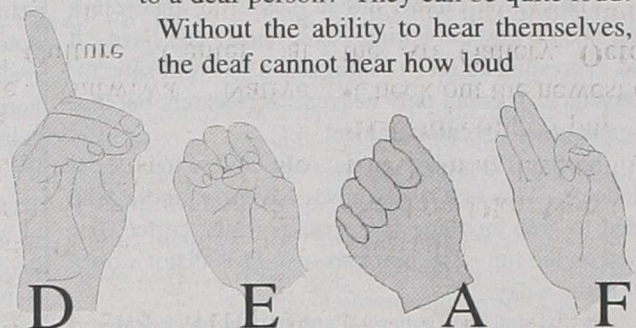
Without the ability to hear themselves, the deaf cannot hear how loud

they are being and so they can often make more noise than a crowd of hearing people. Also, in order to communicate with the hearing, the Deaf learn to speak. The term "deaf and mute" is nothing but an old stereotype with no real basis in truth.

There are three forms of communication often used by the deaf. They are speech and lip-reading, fingerspelling and American Sign Language. As I said before, ASL is most widely used in the US. This language is different from mere signed English because it has its own grammatical structure as well as its own rules of syntax.

Many people are mesmerized when they see a Deaf person speaking Sign Language. They often stop and stare, watching the hands gracefully move. In professional settings, people seem to be more afraid of a deaf person. Rather than cooperate and attempt to communicate, hearing people often try to avoid contact with the deaf. This is not necessary. The deaf are usually prepared to communicate in speech or through the use of a notepad. Since the majority of the US population does not speak Sign Language, the deaf are normally prepared with a notepad to aid in communication.

What should you do if you find yourself in a professional situation where you must help a deaf customer? Just relax and let the deaf person lead the way. Chances are this isn't the first time she's run into someone who doesn't speak her language.



Activity Board: Fun Events Happenin' On and Off Campus

Do you have an club or service event you'd like to see advertised in the Activity Board? Call The Oracle at 310-954-4122 or e-mail us at <Oracle@msmc.la.edu>.

Monday

- IROC Craft Sale
- Turn in food for the **Thanksgiving Food Drive**. For more information, contact members of the Pi Theta Mu or RHA.
- African American Council of Women (AACW) meeting at 6:30 pm in the Circle.
- Graduation Applications Due!!!

Tuesday

- DOCS meeting, 5 to 6 pm
- "The Extraordinary Nature of Ordinary Things," Steven Leder, 7:30 pm at the Skirball Cultural Center, \$8 regular, students FREE.
- Live at the Mount, Noon

Wednesday

- Art Gallery closed for Thanksgiving (until Tuesday)
- Bored? Check out the exhibition of digital art in the Art and Photography Gallery of Santa Monica College. Call (310) 434-4231 for more information.

Thursday

- HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!! College Closed.
- Feed the Homeless (Fre Jordan Mission).

Friday

- LA Philharmonic to perform Turina, Montsalvatge and Dvorak under conductor Jesus Lopez-Cobos, 8 pm.
- College closed for Thanksgiving Weekend.

Saturday

- LA Philharmonic, 8 pm
- 6th Annual Thanksgiving Project.
- Take a hike, the Gorge Overlook Hike, at Malibu Creek State Park. Trail leads to views of the rock pools and climbing wall. Join the community group at 8:30 am.

Sunday

- LA Philharmonic, 2:30 pm
- Join a **Beach and Wetlands Birdwatching** tour at Malibu Lagoon State Beach at 8:30 am. See over 50 bird species and discuss the natural history of the region.
- Visit the Satwiwa Native American Culture Center at Rancho Sierra Vista. 10 am to 5 pm.

Monday

- Improv Night, RHL Program, 8:30 to 10 pm in the Lecture Hall
- IROC Craft Sale
- ISAE: WESTOP Scholarship applications should be submitted to the ISAE Office by today.

Tuesday

- STAR Program: Students Talk About Racism, RHA Multicultural Program, 9:15 pm, Lecture Hall
- Orthopedic Hospital Volunteer Thank you, 9 am to 5 pm.
- Pick up an application to be an **Urban Intern**. Receive a semester stipend of \$800 for work of 6 hours per week. Applications due December 2, 1999.

Wednesday

- RHA general meeting, 9:15 pm, Hannon Parlor
- ASB is sponsoring an educational program on **World Aids**. December 1, 1999.
- Drawing for the **50/50 raffle** will take place today. It was help to support the Sr. Magdalen Coughlin Scholarship Fund. Tickets were sold at the Advisement Center or from Student Ambassadors for \$1.

Thursday

- Na Pua Oka Aina Club meeting, 1 to 2 pm in the Lecture Hall.
- ICC meeting, 9 pm
- Check out the newest exhibition in the Art Gallery, **Octo Ex Urbe**. Tuesday through Saturday noon to 5 pm.

Friday

- LA Philharmonic to perform Ives, Lutoslawski, Keuris and Janacek under conductor David Robertson, 8 pm.

Saturday

- Doheny Dance at Margarita Jones.
- Hike the Coast. At low tide, hike between Paradise Cove and Zuma Beach at Point Dume State Preserve. The hike begins at 1 pm.

Sunday

- ASB Social: Decorate the Circle
- Take a Bird Walk in Topanga State Park. The three hour walk starts at 8 am.

Monday

- ASB Holiday Social, 1 pm in the Lecture Hall, Light the Circle.
- The last day in the "Baby Needs Drive" for House of Ruth. Donations of formula, baby food and diapers are greatly appreciated.

Tuesday

- DOCS Club meeting, 5-6 pm
- Sociology Club meeting, 1-2 pm Lecture Hall.
- Finals are coming... Don't let everything pile up in the end. Get things done early and you'll be under less stress at the last minute.

Wednesday

- Resident's Choice Awards 5 pm in Brady 1st Lounge. Come eat homemade food and enjoy the awards show whose winners you chose! (look for voting tables the 29th through the 3rd in the Brady Dining Hall)

Thursday

- LA Philharmonic to perform Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms and Prokofiev, 8 pm.
- Visit the **Skirball Cultural Center** and expand your cultural horizons, with art exhibitions of all kinds.

Friday

- OTMs for the month of November are due!!!
- Last issue of the *Oracle* comes out.
- Check out our neighbor across the valley, the *Getty* museum!

The Oracle

Archives
MSMQ

Mount St. Mary's College
12001 Chalon Road, Los Angeles, CA 90049
10 Chester Place, Los Angeles, CA 90007

December 10, 1999

Volume 5,
Number 7

Presidential Search Narrowed

By Joan Fletcher

Editor

Since the announcement of Sr. Karen Kennelly's resignation as President of the college, the Mount Presidential Search Committee has been desperately searching for someone to fill her place. The committee received 35 nominations and 29 applications. Of these applications, three were chosen as part of the final selection process.

The three applicants, Dr. Joseph Gower, Dr. James Ferrare, and Mount Provost Dr. Jacqueline Powers Doud, will be coming on campus to hold open sessions for students and staff to interview them and give input to the committee regarding who they feel will lead the college best.

On Thursday, December 9, Dr. Gower came on campus to speak about his qualifications for the position and his goals for the

Mount community. He heard the concerns of the students and faculty, who then gave input on their perception of him.

On Monday, December 13, and Tuesday, December 14, Dr. Ferrare will be available for student and staff questions. Students from the Doheny campus will be able to meet with him on Monday, December 13, from 4 to 5 pm in the Building 10 Conference Room. He'll then be on the Chalon campus to meet with students on Tuesday from 9 to 10 am in Hannon Parlor.

Dr. Doud will be available to meet with Chalon students on Wednesday, December 15, from 1 to 2 pm in the Lecture Hall. She will then meet with Doheny students from 4 to 5 pm in the Building 10 Conference Room.

Students are encouraged to attend as many of these meetings as possible to give feedback to the committee in order to aid in the

final selection process.

This Presidential Search, unlike any other in Mount history, was open to any applicant. Traditionally, only C.S.J.s were considered. It was unheard of to think that a non-religious person would be chosen for the position. The college is now struggling with that change.

In addition, Another great change is that the search was opened not only to laywomen, but also to men. Some students find this to be rather controversial.

"I'm afraid the whole feeling of the college will change with a male president. My fear is that once we do evolve to that stage, we won't be able to go back to a female president. It's not that men are incapable, but women tend to know what to emphasize in our educations. It is and has been a women's college," says third year student, Claudia Almanza.

Christmastime at the Mount



Joan Fletcher, *The Oracle*

On Monday, December 6, 1999, students participated in the annual "Light the Circle" celebration on the Chalon campus. After lighting up the center of campus with Christmas lights, students took a break from their studies to sing Christmas carols.

New Club Opportunities

By Geovanna Henao

Staff Writer

Everyone needs to feel they belong somewhere. Some join organizations, clubs or sororities to attain that feeling. To find the activities that best fit our lives, we must look at how they fit in our schedule and how closely related they are to what we are interested in. Faced with these questions, many decide to simply avoid joining clubs. However, clubs and organizations are an essential part of college life.

Some of the most popular organizations on college campuses are sororities. On the Mount, there are five sororities. However, some still find their need for belonging unfulfilled. If you find yourself in this category, there is good news. Ete Anderson, Director of Student Activities, mentioned that they have been considering bringing more organizations on campus for the enjoyment of the student body. Now, there are two new sororities here at the Mount, Sigma Gamma Rho and Theta Alpha Sigma.

One of the new sororities is Sigma Gamma Rho. The President is Ganesha Brooks. This sorority is an African-American social and academic organization. It is open to everyone who meets the requirements. There are several chapters of this sorority. Among them are those in Loyola Marymount and Cal State Long Beach.

Heather Buchanan, the Historian, stated that the purpose of this sorority is "to encourage and promote high scholastic achievement, the development of leadership abilities and individual talents. Also, to enhance all members in the sense of personal and moral responsibilities and to work towards improving each other and the community we serve."

The goal of this sorority is to make young, intelligent women feel a sense of belonging. The requirements are few, but demanding. You must have a 2.5 grade point average, two letters of recommendation from members of the chapter and you

must have completed 20 hours of community service.

Sigma Gamma Rho has many activities planned. Some planned activities include the census 2000, registering to vote, breast cancer awareness and a step show. There is not a set price for the sorority but there will be an informative meeting around the second week of the Spring semester.

Pledging begins in Spring along with the formal rush. If you are interested, look for advertisements next semester or call Buchanan at (323)422-9596. She will be glad to answer any of your questions.

Theta Alpha Sigma emphasizes the Catholic faith. It is a social and service sorority. Felicia Haronis, the President, expressed interest in beginning a sorority that is based on the Catholic religion. Haronis researched many sororities, but found no sorority that met her desires, so she began one of her own.

Anderson stated that "Theta Alpha Sigma was exclusive and unique to MSMC." Theta Alpha Sigma will begin pledging and rushing in the fall of 2000. Some of the requirements for members are to have at least a 2.7 grade point average and to go through the formal rushing, pledging and interview. It is not necessary to be Catholic to join this sorority. However, applicants must be willing to learn about and participate in various Catholic activities.

Haronis stated that Theta Alpha Sigma is a "get together that will create true sisterhood while enriching the Catholic faith and providing service to our community." Haronis along with her Vice-President, Vanessa Perry, hope to start their foundation this Spring in order to start a new and exciting organization in the Fall.

For those still searching, Sigma Gamma Rho and Theta Alpha Sigma provide us with two new options. However, if you still find yourself searching, you can consider starting an organization of your own and contact Anderson at extension 4120 for information on how to get started.

Mount News

On Wednesday November 24th, second-year student and Oracle Diva Julie Purzycki taped a segment for MTV's new game show, webRIOT.

"I tried out for the show, and they basically told me I was too good to play. They thought I would win too easily. But then they told me that I had great stage presence and my energy really came through on camera. I was flattered, but still mad I couldn't get on the show. Then they told me that they wanted to have a crew come to my dorm and film me playing the game at home on my computer, since it's an interactive game. I agreed to it and they came to my dorm at The University of Judaism and taped me. It was really fun, and even though I wasn't eligible for a prize, it was worth it."

WebRIOT is a new music trivia show that is played by four in-studio contestants, one at-home player of the day (Purzycki's role), and thousands of players at home. The episode that Purzycki taped will most

likely air this month. Go to MTV.com for more information.

On December 6th, the Chalon ASB (Associated Student Body) held two events for students at the Chalon Campus. The Holiday Social and the Lighting of the Circle.

The Holiday Social was held in the Lecture Hall between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. Everyone had a chance to eat cake and cookies and take pictures with Santa. Also enjoyed, were the Christmas tunes on the radio and making decorations. Fun was had by all.

The Lighting of the Circle took place between 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. hot apple cider and hot chocolate were served to keep all who attended the event warm. Many Christmas carols were also sung. A few that were sung "Joy to the World," "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," and "Silent Night, Holy Night." This annual event at the Mount gathered a crowd full of cheer for the holiday season.

Inside:

Pro/Cons:
Is Britney Spears a good role model? What type of people should today's youth admire?
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Are you stressed out in these final days before the end of the semester? Look to the center-spread for advice.
In-depth, Pages 4-5

It Ain't Nothin' But The Blues makes impressive impact on I.S.A.E. students with a mix of the Blues and R&B.
Pop Culture, Page 7

The "Battle of the Bulge": A never-ending fight waged in the holiday season.
Last Thoughts, Page 8

Is Britney Spears a Good Role Model?

Britney and girl power? No way!

By Lauren Chilstrom

Page Editor

What was your favorite song as a child? Many young women, especially of our parents' generation grew up listening to Aretha Franklin demanding some "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" or Gloria Gaynor proclaiming "I Will Survive!" But if you ask girls old enough to appreciate music today what their favorite song is, I'll bet most of them will say something by Britney Spears, the latest teenager to rocket to the top of the pop charts. Her claim to fame: "(Hit Me) Baby One More Time."

For those of you fortunate enough not to have seen the video, allow me to enlighten you. Britney (a mere 16-years-old at the time) and some of her buddies parade around a high school wearing what are supposed to be school uniforms. In reality, she probably borrowed her outfit from a stripper that wore it in her "Catholic school girl" number. She sings about some guy that she just can't live without (at age 16), and is begging him to give her some kind of sign that he still wants her, hence the "Hit me baby one more time."

I suppose that this kind of thing is okay to watch if you're a typical teenage boy that wants to drool over a girl dancing around in next to nothing. But if you're a young girl looking for a positive female role model, please keep looking!

The message this video, and others like it are sending to young girls is not the

message they need to be getting. Girls are going to look at Britney in that video, see the kind of response she gets from guys, and get the wrong idea about what it means to be a woman. Instead of finding someone that will respect them and make them feel beautiful in that way, these young girls are going to be shopping for Wonderbras and revealing clothing in hopes of finding someone that will like them because their shirt is tight and their skirt is short.

Come on ladies, can't we aspire to something better than breast implants and tight clothing? Whatever happened to "Girl Power?" In some ways, this whole Britney Spears craze makes me wish the Spice Girls were popular again. Annoying as they may have been at times, at least the Spice Girls gave little girls a bit of empowerment. I think it would be far better to have girls running around shouting "Girl Power!" than to be running to the first guy they can find.

Now don't get me wrong, I don't have some kind of personal vendetta against Britney Spears. However, what she represents and the image that she projects to little girls (when she is still really a child herself) worries me.

Britney provides good, clean fun

By Joan Fletcher

Editor

"CRAZY! [cue funky music...] Baby, I'm so into you. You've got this something; what can I do?"

Crooning out her "phat" tunes about love and romance, Britney Spears teaches young women about normal teen life.

Rather than pretend to be the confident young woman she is not, she sings about her insecurity in relationships (hit me one more time...) and her physical attraction to her latest crush. In her current hit, "Crazy," she serves as a role model for teens who are looking for a relationship.

With a pure pop dance tempo, this upbeat song is sure to attract many a man to the young lady mouthing the words, desperately trying to imitate the simplistic pop-locking moves of the current pop diva. Sure, Britney may not look or sound like the typical role model for the "empowered" woman, but is this really what young girls need? Do we seriously need another feminist role model? If little girls are looking for one, they always have the Spice Girls and Christina Aguilera, who all have strong feminist feelings about giving a girl what she wants. Britney, on the other hand, represents a new trend.



In a society where doing "girly" things is looked down upon as stereotypical, Spears leads the way, showing it's okay to take on traditional female roles. She shows girls it's okay to brush each others hair and play with make-up. It's perfectly acceptable.

Dancing in her classic "Catholic school girl" and waitress outfits, Britney shows there can be a sexy side to any role a woman decides to take on. It doesn't matter that she looks like the friendly neighborhood stripper. Young girls need to understand that the typical "empowered" woman is not their only option in life. There are many other roles for women to fulfill. Some are more accepted or desirable than others, but it must be accepted that they exist.

Spears is doing the young girls who blindly follow her a favor by giving them another type of role model to look up to. It is inevitable that some will choose a different path in life. Why should it be presupposed that any one path is better than another?

Britney's portrayal of the slutty girlfriend or the "school girl" stripper should neither be censored or suppressed. These are real roles that some women may choose. Who are we to say they should not pursue these dreams and fantasies? True feminists would support women in every decision they make, whether or not they find it falls within the narrow boundaries of their moral consciences.

THE ORACLE

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Letters to the Editor

Administrator Disapproves of Earthquake Editorial

Dear Editor:

I read with interest your editorial in the November 5 issue of The Oracle. In it, you described the November 3 earthquake drill as "chaos" and "nonsense."

As the Incident Commander for that drill, I would like to respond to your editorial. The drill scenario was that of an earthquake striking the Los Angeles area with a magnitude strong enough to cause damage to our buildings. This scenario necessitated the evacuation of our buildings and the set up of a Command Center to direct search and rescue, medical, and fire suppression teams.

Some of our students could be misled by your statement that you were "told never to leave the building." The American Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Unit and the Los Angeles County Disaster Plan guidelines state that one should "drop, cover and hold during the earthquake." When the shaking stops, one should cautiously evacuate the building until authorities complete their inspection and declare it safe to reenter. It is important not to

run out of a building during an earthquake as injuries often occur from falling objects.

These drills help to prepare us for a major disaster and test our response systems. Though chaos usually occurs in a real disaster, the more disaster response training an individual has, the better equipped she/he is to safely deal with the real thing. The response to our drill was excellent in that evacuation of the college buildings was complete in less than 20 minutes and the emergency teams were quickly formed to evaluate structural damage, and to triage and evacuate injured people. This came as a result of the cooperative efforts of the emergency response team, faculty, staff, and students.

Following the important guidelines of the MSMC Disaster Plan and practicing with drills will better prepare us to deal with the emergencies that often occur in the event of a major disaster.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jane Lingua,
Vice President for Student Affairs

A Note from the Editor

Preventing the Waste of Paper

I've had many students come up to me within the last week, asking if the Oracle could run something regarding the tremendous waste of paper in our computer labs.

Fourth year students Aimee Jade Sison and Annie Lin expressed their concern recently when they saw how many sheets of clean paper were wasted in the few minutes they were in the lab. Many students were printing research information from the Internet or rough drafts of papers on the clean, white sheets rather than on the recycled paper provided below the desk.

Why do we keep recycled paper if no one is going to use it? Students should take advantage of the fact that the college provides us with the supplies we need to print our papers. Many universities charge their students for each sheet printed. We must keep the costs down in our computer labs in

order to retain that privilege.

Lin and Sison have many suggestions for what students can do to reduce the waste in the labs. Aside from following the posted instructions, which ask students not to print their e-mails or Internet research on clean paper, Lin suggests extra steps be taken. She says that many professors will allow students to turn in their papers on recycled paper. Students should ask their professors in the beginning of the semester if they would accept work on recycled paper (meaning it has something printed on the other side).

Students are also encouraged to print only one copy of reports or papers on the computers. If you need extra copies, go to a copy machine. It is much cheaper to refill the copier ink than to replace a printer cartridge.

—Joan Fletcher, Editor

Should Students be Held to Curfews?

Student Adults Deserve Respect Parents' House, Parents' Rules

By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer

Okay, I know my mother is going to read this, but I have to give my true opinion. I don't think it is right for a parent to be able to set a curfew for their child when they come home for break. This is not to say that kids should have no rules or responsibilities, but if they are adults, they should be treated as such.

When I go home for breaks, I respect my parents and don't stay out all night. It's not because my parents are waiting up all night for me on the couch like an episode of "The Cosby Show." I don't stay out all night when I'm at home because I know that it wasn't acceptable when I used to live at home, it's not acceptable for my 17-year-old brother, and it's just plain disrespectful.

When I am away from home, and it's Saturday night, I'll occasionally stay out into the wee hours of the morning with friends. However, when I am staying at my parent's house, there are unsaid rules. I don't stay out outrageously late; I don't watch inappropriate television shows and

movies in front of my five and nine-year-old brother; and I help with household chores.

If my parents were to verbally state the rules, such as giving me a curfew, I would be insulted. I am an adult, and even though I am staying with them, I am not 15 years old anymore. I am obviously capable enough to function as an adult on my own, so why should it be any different at home?

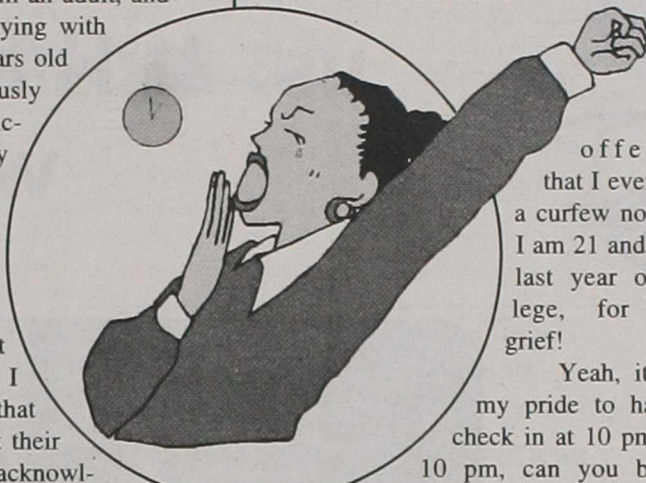
I don't want to be portrayed as a disrespectful daughter. That is not who I am at all. I do, however, think that parents should respect their son or daughter and acknowledge their maturity by not insulting them by setting rules and parameters.

If a student goes home and has really demanding parents who still treat them like a child, be patient...it's only a month until you are back at school and staying up until 2 a.m. and sleeping until noon!

By Huong Ho

Contributing Writer

On the rare occasions that I do go home to visit my parents, I am offended to find I have a curfew.



I am offended that I even have a curfew now that I am 21 and in my last year of college, for good grief!

Yeah, it hurts my pride to have to check in at 10 pm (yes, 10 pm, can you believe it?!). But, being 21 also means a different level of responsibility, as well as an understanding and empathetic nature. I have begun to wonder what it would be like to have children of my own.

What would it be like to fear for the sake of another vulnerable human being?

What would it be like to then trust that your parenting skills will overcome all evil in the moments your children are faced with difficulty?

That is why a curfew exists. I respect the curfew not only for the simple reason that I am in my parents' house, and therefore their rules should be respected. More importantly, the presence of a curfew serves as a reminder that I alone am responsible for my actions.

In addition, I assume a fraction of the responsibility of setting an example for my younger siblings. When I am in my parents' house, I am their role model and so my every action has an impact on how they will act. If I disrespect my parents' wishes, they are like to do the same, following my example.

If you're tired of being treated like a teenager in your parents' house, then don't act like one. Have a little respect. You never know...they might extend your curfew to 10:30 pm!



Poke'mon Craze Hits LA

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

Poke'mon, pronounced Po-Kay-Mon is a anime series that originates from Japan. Poke'mon means Pocket Monsters in Japanese. An interesting fact is that the Japanese say it in English, but the Americans say it in Japanese. Is that the weirdest thing or what?

Poke'mon is based on a 10 year old boy named Ash Ketchum. He plots to be the best Poke'mon trainer in the world. He fights his enemy while trying to reach his goal. His enemy is Gary Oak along with his friends, Misty and Brock. Their enemies are the evil Team Rocket, Jesse and James. they try to take Pickachu because she has extreme power. Also, there are various Poke'mon video games on the market that include: Poke'mon Snap, Poke'mon Red, Blue, and Yellow, N64, and countless others. There are more than 150 Poke'mon species.

So, now that you are filled in on what Poke'mon is you still want to know what the big deal is. Well, almost any child or pre-teen can tell you each character, in order, along with a list of their abilities and attributes.

For parents, "what may be harder to survive is the relentlessness of Poke'mania, a multimedia and interactive barrage like no other before it, with children mesmerized into cataloging a menagerie of multiplicative monsters with trading cards linked to games linked to television shows linked to toys linked to websites linked to candy..." according to a recent article in *Time* magazine.

Trading cards are another craze that has kids in an uproar. the rare one's are worth lots of money and are traded at school, in the mall, and among friends. It is taken so seriously that some kids try to avoid others in order to stop a confrontation. "Sometimes, I won't go outside to play because my neighbor only wants to trade Poke'mon. That is all he ever talks about: Poke'mon, Poke'mon, Poke'mon," says my nine year old cousin Simone who attends public school.

In other words Poke'mania is contagious among the young and available everywhere. Parents are paying big bucks for anything that is Poke'mon. the good news is that it can not last forever. just like Barney and Power Rangers it will fade.

Daily, college students and young kids alike continue to enjoy the "Pocket Monsters." Sure, for the younger generation, Poke'mon is fine. It is normal for them to enjoy fictitious stories that include cute monsters, trading cards, and video games. They also collect backpacks, clothing, and other popular accessories plastered with the cartoon images. While it's an acceptable part of growing up for kids, is Poke'mon really appropriate for college students?

Poke'mon may be harmless fun that generates easy conversations with friends at school, but college students who begin to obsess by collecting the cards or figures or who watch the series non-stop should take a long hard look at themselves and decide why they are regressing back to their childhood.

It is possible to wear the gear without being obsessed. You may just think that the characters are cute, but you shouldn't take it too far. College students should be more mature than to be obsessed with cartoon characters.

As a college student without an obsession, I find that many others are head-over-heels with more appropriate idols of their age group. Many idolize groups like the Backstreet Boys, N'SYNC, 98 Degrees, Brad Pitt, or Tyson Beckford. We all need to take time to educate ourselves. Instead of running out to buy gear and obsessing over the next craze, enlighten your mind with a new book, find a hobby, or do something new and adventurous.

We, as the next generation, represent our society and must improve our reputation as a whole before we can take true leadership positions. We need to experience as much as possible while learning from our mistakes. That will allow us to become more mature and grant us the gift of making wise decisions. We need to represent ourselves in a positive light. After all, we are the future of our society.

Editorial:

Free Your Mind from Millennium Madness

We're going to party like it is 1999. Yeah! As the century comes to a close, many questions are left in our minds. Will the world end? Is there going to be a huge disaster? Will the Entertainment industry fail because they no longer have quick material from which they can make a quick buck?

As the end of the century approaches, the best we can do is prepare to survive. Go ahead and buy the supplies like soap and flashlights. If you really have something to fear, stay at home and anticipate the "inevitable." I have heard many say that they will stay at home or go to church and pray. I am concerned that these plans were born out of fear. Sure, it is great that people want to be with their families, praying, but this fear should not control their life, taking precedence over family, love and normalcy.

We must open our hearts with kindness and eliminate from them any prejudices. We should try to do something positive each day, not only for ourselves, but for others. It may be something as simple as holding the door open for a stranger, helping a friend with a project, taking your significant other out to lunch, or taking care of a sick relative. You can do something to better yourself, such as reading a scripture, broadening your horizons through a good book, attending a concert, learning to dance salsa, or meeting a new person. All of these things allow you to free your mind and take control of your life.

As the last days of this century draw near, it becomes time to evaluate ourselves, our lives, and our society. Upon initial review, many problems can be seen. For instance, we are too quick to try to make a quick buck off of anything available to us.

As a result, we have put an overemphasis on the millennium. We have many CDs, movies and articles capitalizing on the new century. What is the big deal anyways? The clock will strike 12:01 and the year will change to 2000. There is nothing more to it. So some computer systems may go down. Who cares? It will not matter in the end. It will create a minor inconvenience for a while, a month or two at most, but afterwards, the great millennium will merely be remembered as the biggest hype of the 20th century.

Now that we're on the subject of the millennium hype, why does everyone have

to make reference to it whenever possible? Honestly, I did expect there to be more hype to the year 2000 than it is turning out to be, with countless CDs, songs, movies and books commemorating the event. I was a bit pleased to find that few artists actually attempted to use the turn of the century to inflate their sales.

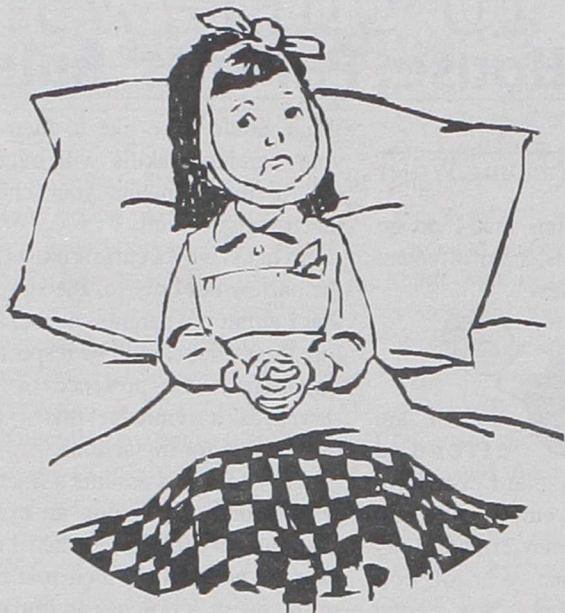
One sad example is the great Will Smith, who disappointed critics and fans alike with his shameless adoption of the millennial theme in his latest CD, *Willenium*. His first single off the CD, *Will2K*, has proven to be a hit on the charts, but I wonder where it will be on January 1st. It may be "the song of the millennium," but it will be largely forgotten after everyone realizes this New Year's will be just another day.

Perhaps the one thing that makes me angriest about Smith's single is his modification to the old Prince song, making it "and we're going to party like it's 199—hold up, it is!" This cheap adaptation of an 80s hit may portray the message of the millennium, the fact that this day so revered in the past has finally come, but it makes the whole album appear cheesy. Other artists who've capitalized on the once-in-a-thousand years event are the Backstreet Boys, with their sophomore album, *Millennium*, and Robbie Williams with his single "Millennium."

The music industry is not the only area of entertainment trying to make a quick buck on the turning of the calendar. The millennial thriller, *End of Days*, is merely a cliché capitalizing on the fear of the masses. The acting is horrendous and the plotline, though seemingly valid at times, is rescued only by the many explosions and action-packed scenes that were meant to "keep you on the edge of your seat." However, the artistry that should be expected in major blockbusters was mysteriously missing.

As the last days of the year draw close, remember what your priorities are and should be. Free your mind from the shallow millennial madness of Hollywood. It is insane to think the world will end when the clock hits midnight, so don't worry and concentrate on those things that should be most important in your life.

—Maya Gaddie and Joan Fletcher,
Assistant Editor and Editor



Finals...Stress

What is stress? Stress is any us. It is a part of life. Learning work or an argument

"Life is full of stressful situations, and no one can live without experiencing tension or anxiety to some degree. The best any of us can do is to learn to manage it."

—Taken from "Healthy Stress Management," Talbert Medical Group, Courtesy of MSMC Health Services



Maya Gaddie, The Oracle

First year student Fabiola Sandoval makes stress balls with Anna Burrell on Wednesday, December 8, 1999 on the Chalon campus.

Danger!

You may be serious stressor

- you feel a growing tobacco, alcohol, tranquilizers, pills, or other
- your behavior (such as vandalizing school property, unsafe sex) puts you or
- friends keep telling you stressed or

If you show any of the speak with a counselor some less danger to unvin

Short-term ways to handle stress:

- Relax where you are. Breathe deeply through your nose, feeling your hands rise as your abdomen fills with air.
- Take a break. Get some exercise or fresh air, or go somewhere quiet and yell or cry.
- Ask yourself whether it's worth being upset over the situation. You can choose to stay calm and ignore it. If the issue is important, confront it directly, talk it out with a sympathetic friend, or write it out in a letter you don't send.
- List all the things you think you need to do right away. Prioritize and do the top few on your list. The rest can become first priority tomorrow.

Long-term ways to handle stress:

- Seek your own stress level.
- Choose your own goals.
- Become part of the support system. Look out for yourself by letting friends help you.
- Think positively.
- Make decisions yourself.
- Keep your expectations realistic. Don't expect perfection from yourself or others.
- Accept what you cannot change.
- Anticipate potentially stressful situations and prepare for them.
- Live the present. Learn from the past and move on.
- Manage your time.
- Take care of your health.
- Take time for yourself. Make yourself your priority.



Maya Gaddie, The Oracle

Students make ornaments as part of stress relieving activities on Wednesday, December 8, 1999 on the Chalon campus.

"Taking showers, filing my nails, plucking my eyebrows as long as it's for me. It helps to do something schoolwork."

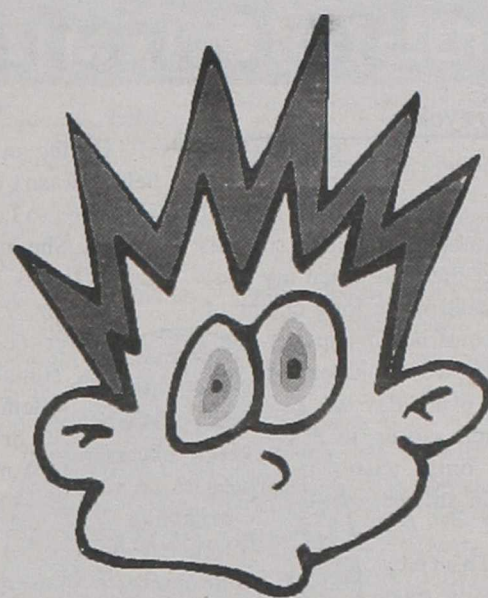
—Anna Burrell

"I do what any normal human being does. I take a deep breath and count to ten. After that, I think of a place that I have been or want to go. This is my 'happy place.' My happy place helps me get rid of all anxieties, nervousness and stress."

—Claudia Almanza, t

SS...Aaaahh!!!

Anything that puts pressure on
doing new things, a problem at
home can all cause stress.



anger!!!
be suffering
stress overload if
having need for food,
tranquilizers, sleeping
other drugs.
such as driving too fast,
property, or practicing
you or others at risk.
telling you that you seem
stressed out.
any of these symptoms,
consult a counselor to find
harmless ways
to unwind.

Signs of stress:

- Problems eating or sleeping
- increased use of alcohol or other drugs
- increased boredom and fatigue
- problems making decisions
- increased procrastination
- becoming anxious and confused over unimportant events
- inability to concentrate or pay attention
- inability to get organized
- weakness, dizziness and shortness of breath; "anxiety attacks,"
- nightmares
- frequent indigestion, diarrhea, or urination
- increase or decrease in appetite
- frequent accidents and minor injuries
- increase in headaches, backaches, muscle aches and tightness in stomach
- frequent colds and infections
- changes in exercise habits
- overpowering urges to cry or run and hide

to De-Stress?

"Exercise! I like to take a
walk or talk to a loved one
far away and then I feel
better afterwards."

—Maritza Rhodas, first
year student

"Take a Tylenol!"

—Isabell Estrada,
first year student

ing my eyebrows, anything! Just
something that does not involve

—Anna Burrell, first year student

ing goes first...sit back,
ten. After my breath, I
h or want to go to. I call
y place helps me block out
stress."
Almanza, third year student

HOW TO DESTRESS DURING FINALS!!!!!!

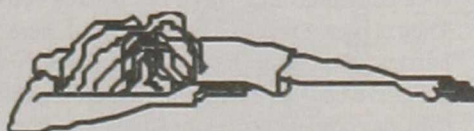
By Connie Moreno

Doheny Editor

As we all know, finals week is looming on the horizon. We are getting ready to hit the books for one last time before we leave for four delicious weeks of eating, resting and bumming around. Plus, this December 31 is going to be very memorable, so look forward to it!! But for now, let me give you some tips on how to destress during those hours of brain overload. Hope you find these helpful!!

- Buy some play-doh at the ninety nine cent store, and simply mush it around for a couple minutes. Pretend your a little kid that doesn't have to worry about a five page paper!!

- An easy one is to buy a bag of balloons and some flour. Fill the balloons with flour and use



it as a stress ball.

- Take an occasional break of about half hour after having studies for about two. Don't study all the time!!!!
- When you are just about ready to blow your top, simply lay down on your bed and close your eyes for a while. Take deep breaths and relax.
- RHA is going to be hosting Brain Breaks on the Chalon campus every night of finals week at 9:00 p.m. They will have a variety of events to help us unwind.

Well girls, I hope I have helped to ease your tension for a while. Study hard, but don't forget to take those breaks, they are important.

Also, baby yourself a little, and reward yourself for finally finishing a paper or for studying for two hours straight. That always worked for me!!!!



Be Careful "Livin' La Vida NoDoz"



By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer

December...a joyous month for children...a hellish month for college students. I can remember the days when my classmates and I would make long chains of red and green construction paper at school. Everyday we would tear a link off, and every day we were that much closer to Christmas. I only wish December could still be a month of fun.

Unfortunately, December entails much more for me now than just construction paper, glitter and paste. A melange of coffee, number two pencils, late nights, cramming sessions, and headaches define my life in December.

Ideally, medical experts say, college students should get an average of eight to ten hours of sleep per night, follow a steady exercise routine, and eat a healthy diet. Well, maybe if I went to college at University of I Wish and there were no such things as deadlines, jobs, boyfriends, flat-tires or Taco Bell, I could be the ideal college student. I am the first to admit that I do not get eight hours of sleep, I do not exercise regularly, and I definitely do not eat healthy (hello cafeteria food). And despite these things, I still manage to make it to class at 8:00 a.m. and write agonizing research papers week after

week.

During my freshman year I needed help. I wasn't the experienced Diva that I am today, so I took the advice of a 4th year student. She introduced me to a very dangerous friend...NoDoz.

NoDoz, Vivarin, and Stay Awake are over-the-counter caffeine pills that stimulate the central nervous system and make people feel less drowsy and less fatigued, make them more capable of rapid and clear thought, and better able to perform some manual tasks, such as typing. Many people think that because the pills are over-the-counter and readily available, they must be safe. There is some validity to that thought. If used correctly and in moderation, NoDoz, along with the other caffeine pills, is a safe way to stay awake. However, they should not be used everyday or in replacement of sleep. Most people will feel the effects of NoDoz within 30 minutes when it peaks in the bloodstream and will continue to affect the body for three to four hours. This is considering the pills weren't taken with coffee or soda.

At first I just took the pills occasionally, when I needed to finish a paper, or when I was so tired that I couldn't keep my eyes open. Gradually, I started popping NoDoz daily, just to stay awake in class from being up all night. I saw

myself getting into this unhealthy cycle, and I made the conscious decision to stop taking the pills. Unfortunately, many people don't have my self-control or willpower. People have died of overdosing on the pills because only the most common side-effects are listed.

I couldn't admit it at the time, but I was totally addicted to caffeine pills. I became moody and irritable. I constantly had blood-shot eyes and a dry mouth. I lost my appetite, and I don't think I blinked for about two months. The only positive thing...my room was always really clean. When I was done studying at four in the morning, what better things to do than dust my refrigerator and alphabetize my CDs?

Now, being the wise and respected Diva that I am, I want to give those of you who aren't in the know some advice. There are much cheaper and healthier alternatives to staying awake than caffeine pills. These days, in order to cram for exams and such, I find that the best way to rejuvenate myself is to take a really cold shower. While I am taking the shower I turn on really loud, obnoxious music (like that "Oh Mickey, you're so fine you blow my mind" song). When I get out of the shower, I drink a cup of coffee or iced tea (some hot teas do not have as much caffeine as iced). One may ask, what's the difference between coffee and caffeine pills? The answer, nothing really...except it is much easier to down six pills than to drink a pot of coffee. Soda is also a decent alternative. In my experience, Mountain Dew and Mr. Pibb, which both contain

about 55 milligrams of caffeine per 12-ounce can, do the trick. Don't even touch Jolt Cola unless you want to rot your teeth and have the heartbeat of a hamster.

NoDoz was my quick fix for fatigue. I didn't think about what would happen when I stopped taking it. NoDoz is a drug. Similarly to cocaine and heroin, when the high wears off, you crash hard. Withdrawal symptoms can occur when people stop taking the pills after relying on them for extended periods of time. Symptoms of irritability, headaches, and even depression do occur. If you are hooked on caffeine pills or beverages, you might want to start by slowly decreasing your daily intake of caffeine, and then working toward quitting completely.

Your study habits will improve immensely with sleep (which we need physically, mentally, and spiritually to replenish our bodies), and you will probably be more able to effectively prioritize your responsibilities. It is absolutely imperative to eat, sleep, and have some relaxation time while you're a student. It will greatly increase your acuity when you're studying and conceptualizing, and allow you to formulate good work habits for your future outside of school.

December may be an excruciating month in the life of a college student, but it can be made bearable by taking time to realize that your health is the most important thing. I sacrificed my body to do well in school. Don't do the same thing. Respect your body and mind, and you will do just fine. Good luck next week!

Common side-effects of caffeine pills when taken in excess...

- Nervousness Trembling
- Irritability
- Muscle tension
- Insomnia
- Tremors
- Gastrointestinal distress - nausea, upset stomach, diarrhea
- Rapid heartbeat
- Low potassium in the blood
- Depression
- Headaches
- Migraine headaches

Suzi's Study Abroad Adventures

By Suzi Schroeder

Staff Writer

The holiday season has descended upon Salzburg. It has snowed several times, which I received in great joy by making impromptu snow angels and getting in snowball fights after class.

Advent is a big deal here. The Christmas markets are in full swing. Merry shoppers buy sweets and ornaments while drinking cups of hot mulled wine. Here, it is never too early for Glugwine. However, for myself and most other study abroad students, the holiday season brings something else, culture shock (a scary name for homesickness).

However, homesickness is not a new thing. We've all encountered it before, at summer camp, our first slumber party, or during our first year of college. But it takes on a whole new meaning when you're half a world away from so many people you care so much about. Some people get sick, others get crabby. Me? I usually get self-conscious and cry.

The other day, I burst into tears because I thought some girls in my dance class were talking smack about me (They were. They didn't know I am American and they didn't like my toe ring). I have stopped going to that class.

I cried because I wanted to be home for Christmas. I cried because I wanted to stay another semester, even though I know I can't because of obligations in the states (I can't afford it both academically and financially. Besides, who would direct the spring play?).

I cried because I wondered if I was making the same mistake twice (I had an opportunity to stay in Switzerland for a year and turned it down because of obligations back home). But this is perfectly normal, especially for this time of year, so I have an apple strudel at my favorite cafe and things seem a little better.

It was strange going to class on Thanksgiving. Even though we had a Turkey dinner, it was not the same without mashed potatoes. Afterwards, we celebrated the 21st birthdays of two of our friends at Pepe Gonzales, where they make the best margaritas in all of Salzburg.

My brothers called me for Thanksgiving. They called at 1:30 am, Salzburg time, and then wanted to know why I sounded so sleepy.

The holidays will be nice here though. I just got back from Vienna, where I saw Riverdance. It was completely sold out, so I had to stand outside with a sign that said "Ich brauche eine karte" (I need a ticket), and La Boheme (I got a standing ticket for \$3 and could only see half the stage). I drank afelpunch and went to castles and froze. Its very cold here. (I heard it gets that way in some places, not at all like my hometown in Arizona!). Even though I will not be home for the holidays, my time here will be unforgettable. I will ring in the New Year in Barcelona, and for Christmas... well, I'm trying to decide between Switzerland and Paris (Christmas in Paris, can you imagine?).

I will not get to see the Lighting of the Circle, eat the holiday dinners in our fine dining hall, or sing to the Sisters in the Carondelet Center. But I will get to experience Christmas in a way I never have before. Then I get to go back to school here in Salzburg for three more weeks, head home and drive back to the Mount in the Pixymobile (My Economics professor loves the story of the \$20 Pixy.... If you're curious, ask Joan [the Editor]. She was there). I'll have a touch of jet lag and will get home just in time to start the spring semester late. In the meantime, I'll be listening to Christmas concerts, seeing new traditions and, of course, drinking Glugwine. So, Merry Christmas to you all, and have a Happy New Year!



Do you like what you've seen in The Oracle this year? Would you like to be a part of it next semester? You can...

- Register for the class, JRN 96
- Sign up on the Oracle board on 4th Floor Humanities, Chalon.
- Call and tell us you are interested.
- Watch the board for meeting times.

Joan Fletcher, Editor (310) 954- 4122

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Theater Review

It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues was another of the many great events sponsored by ISAE this year. It took place on Sunday, November 14th, 1999, with shuttles leaving campus between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The shuttles were taken to the Geffen Playhouse across from UCLA. Although, it is a small and quaint theatre, it was very elegant and beautiful from first sight.

It has a cozy at home feeling about it. Salads, sandwiches, snacks, and drinks were served at the entrance. Pictures from previous plays were captured in frames in one area of the theatre.

Soon after entering it was time to be seated.



ed. The play had a great impact on me because it shows the earlier days in the South, when slaves were bought and sold daily, beaten and hung for punishment.

However, the characters in the play began to go on and show how slaves rose up from brutality and began to branch out to Chicago, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

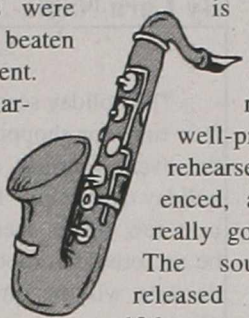
They imitated the styles of the Jazz and Blues clubs from the 30s to the 60s. This part of the show demonstrated how Blues was deeply rooted in churches mostly from the Southern Baptist background.

The cast even went so far as to introduce us to how Blues is still alive today.

All of the songs performed were fabulous and fitting to each cast member. It is obvious that each crew and cast member was well-prepared, well-rehearsed, well-experienced, and, well, just really good performers. The soundtrack was released on November 19th.

I recommend this play to anyone who has any interest in the origination of Blues music or to anyone who just wants to tap their feet and clap their hands to some great music.

There are many other events that will take place this year that ISAE students can participate in. To find out more about ISAE see Michelle Lewis or Meynard Ancheta in the Learning Center or call extension 4144.



The Not-So-Casual Movie Goer (aka Movies to Catch)

By Joycelyn Lee

Staff Writer

In this pre-holiday movie season, with solid hits like *Toy Story 2*, *Sleepy Hollow*, and the latest *James Bond* caper, it's easy to see why a smaller, artsy film like Neil Jordan's *The End of the Affair* might get lost in the shuffle. It is, after all, a wartime drama. Meaning, the target audience for TEOTA can only be so big, right?

Well, let me just begin by saying that I walked into the theater expecting nothing (alright, I'll admit I went primarily for the aesthetically-pleasing attributes of the esteemed male lead) and emerged completely enchanted by the performances in TEOTA. If you're in the mood for a shallow romance, don't go see this movie. But if you want a movie about the nature of love, jealousy, faith, and miracles, TEOTA is one worth watching.

The End of the Affair, based on Graham Greene's 1951 novel, is rumored to be a thinly veiled account of Greene's own long adulterous affair with Catherine Walston.

While some of the romantic dialogue comes off as cliché and hokey at times, ("I would rather be dead than see you with another man" is one of my favorites), I was nonetheless impressed with the way the story's events unfolded. Most of it plays very well.

Set in the 1940s, mostly during the war years, the story has all the ingredients of a melodrama. "This is a diary of hate," Maurice Bendrix (Fiennes) types into his typewriter as the film begins.

It is 1949 and the angry writer is looking for an explanation as he reminisces over his affair with Sarah Miles, which began in 1939 after he met her at a party thrown by her bore of a husband Henry (Stephen Rea), and ended abruptly one night in 1944.

Their breakup occurs during the Blitz,

after a bomb hits Bendrix's house while the two are together. He is severely injured when the blast throws him down a stairwell. Believing he is dead, Sarah flees back to the bedroom to pray. When Maurice recovers, the shaken Sarah leaves quickly, refusing to see him again.

Two years later, Maurice runs into a depressed Henry, who is still ignorant of his wife's infidelity and confesses to Maurice that he believes his wife is having an affair. Consumed by his own jealousy and obsessiveness, Maurice proceeds to investigate Sarah's whereabouts.

Bendrix's unlikely accomplices are a clumsy private detective named Parkis (Ian Hart) and his apprentice son, a solemn, alert young boy with a birthmark that covers a whole side of his face. What follows is the unraveling of a complex mystery.

The End of the Affair is like a jigsaw puzzle. The director uses multiple voices and perspectives to tell the story. Maurice recounts his version while the detective issues his report on the same scene, or passages of Sarah's diary (after it is stolen) are read, completing the picture of the affair while, at the same time, illuminating the characters' blind spots. When Maurice finally confronts Sarah, he finds that what he has imagined is quite far from the truth.

I really cannot praise the film enough. Both Fiennes and Moore deliver honest, intense performances. And Rea, playing the cuckold husband, adds interesting touches to what could be a stereotypical character.

The movie is beautifully photographed, specifically the wide-angle shots and numerous scenes filmed in shadow. The characters are trapped by their own darkness, and the two scenes framed in light—the afternoon tryst during the bombing and the lovers' trip to the beach—clarify what is fantasy (the war) and reality (life after the war).

Ratings System:

***** Brilliant, inspiring, a classic, you get the idea
**** First rate—worth your time and money
*** Flawed but had its moments
** Desperation Time
* Someone please shoot the producer

Movie Review Toy Story 2 Pleases Critics

By Vianney Vasquez

Page Editor

A few years ago when the first *Toy Story* movie came out, I never thought about watching it. I heard all the commotion on how good it was, but still that did not change my mind. I never thought that a couple years later all the hype would come back to haunt me again.

It's been two weeks since *Toy Story 2* has been out on the big screen. The first week, again I did not think about watching it. However, when I saw how well it did in the box office, I said to myself, "Okay, I have to see what the fuss is all about." So, last Sunday night I took my little sister and myself to watch this so-called phenomenon.

When I got to the theatre, I purchased my tickets, popcorn, nachos and a slurpie. Then I headed to theatre number fourteen, and waited for the screen to light up. A few minutes later some images came on. Unfortunately, they were only previews, and I had to wait for over fifteen minutes before the actual movie started.

Finally, *Toy Story 2* came on. All these different toy characters came to life on the screen. Bright pastel colors splashed everywhere. There was a green dinosaur, a pink piggy bank, the brown slinky dog, nude Mr. Potato head, and many more. These were all

toys that belonged to a kid named Andy. The two main toys were an astronaut named Buzz Light-year and a cowboy named Woody.

The actual story began when Woody was stolen. It turned out that he was a collectible item and was worth a lot of money. Since Andy had gone on a trip, he did not know that he had been kidnapped. So Woody's good friend Buzz and the other toys go to rescue him.

While he's lost, Woody meets a cowgirl named Jessie and a horse named Bull's-eye. In their journey to find Woody, however, the other toys encounter many obstacles that prevent them from finding Woody. In the end, their adventure is successful.

All through the movie, I found myself laughing hard. The adorable characters were so cute and funny that they made me enjoy the movie. I never thought that I would be saying this, but the movie was really excellent. I think I even had a better time watching it than my little sister.

Now I kind of regret that I never gave *Toy Story* a chance. So anyone who has not seen any of the *Toy Story* movies, I really recommend them to go and watch *Toy Story 2* because it is a well-done movie that is really worth watching.

I recommend anyone who is looking for a cute, funny movie over the holidays to check out *Toy Story 2*.

The Diva Gives Holiday Gift Suggestions

By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer

Here are a few musical selections your loved ones might enjoy this holiday season.

Mom: All moms love Christmas albums, and there are a few new ones out this year. Amy Grant: *A Christmas To Remember* (A&M), Jewel: *Joy: A Holiday Collection* (Atlantic), Fiona Apple: *When The Pawn...* (Clean Slate), Garth Brooks: *The Magic Of Christmas* (Capitol/Nashville), Mariah Carey: *Rainbow* (Columbia).

Dad: Dads will appreciate the guitar-driven sounds of these

picks: Lenny Kravitz: *5* (Virgin), Led Zeppelin: *Early Days: The Best Of Led Zeppelin Volume One* (Atlantic), Santana: *Supernatural* (Arista), Foo Fighters: *There Is Nothing Left To Lose* (Roswell), Red Hot Chili Peppers: *Californication* (Warner Bros.).

Younger Siblings: The next MTV generation will go crazy over new musical sensations like these: Backstreet Boys: *Millennium* (Jive), Soundtrack: *Pokemon: The First Movie* (Atlantic), Jessica Simpson: *Sweet Kisses* (Columbia), Marc Anthony: *Marc Anthony* (Columbia), Jim Johnston: *World*

Wrestling Federation: WWF The Music Volume 4 (Koch), 98 Degrees: *This Christmas* (Universal), Blink-182: *Enema of the State* (MCA), Korn: *I s s u e s* (Immortal), Limp Bizkit: *Significant Other* (Flip), Kid Rock: *Devil Without a Cause* (Lava/Atlantic).

Older Siblings: For your older brothers and sisters who want great music and lasting lyrics, try some of these: Tori Amos: *To Venus and Back* (Atlantic),

Metallica: *S&M* (Elektra), NAS: *Nastradamus* (Columbia), Bush: *The Science of Things* (Trauma), The Artist: *Rave Un2 the Joy*

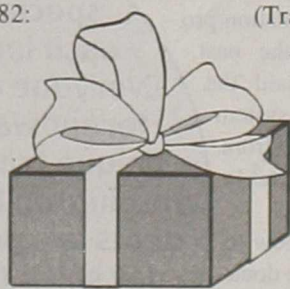
Fantastic (NPG), Beck: *Midnite Vultures* (DGC/Geffen), Method Man/Redman: *Blackout!* (Def Jam), Beastie Boys: *Anthology: The Sounds of Science* (Grand Royal), Dr. Dre: *Dr. Dre 2001* (Aftermath).

Grandparents: You obviously can't buy Grandma the new Dre album...or maybe you can. But if

you can't, here are some softer alternatives: Kenny G: *Faith: A Holiday Album* (Arista), Andrea Bocelli: *Sacred Arias* (Philips).

Aunts/Uncles: Give your loved ones a different taste of music with some old artists who've come back onto the scene, and some live music. Eurythmics: *Peace* (Arista), Charlotte Church: *Charlotte Church* (Sony Classical), Dave Matthews Band: *Listener Supported* (RCA), Celine Dion: *All The Way... A Decade Of Song* (550 Music), TLC: *Fanmail* (LaFace).

If all else fails, gift certificates work wonders.



Lighten up and enjoy December

By Jennifer Strausz

Michigan Daily
University of Michigan

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. -- They come out every year. Last December it was the man who threatened to sue a local radio station because they were playing too many Christmas songs. A few years ago, it was the girl who rudely confronted a drug store manager about the cashier who had wished her a Merry Christmas instead of a Happy Holiday.

"It just slipped out," said the cashier afterward, very apologetic, as if he had used profanity or insulted the girl's mother. "Honest. I'm really sorry."

Now it's the woman at the bookstore who is openly complaining about the Christmas decorations on the streets of Ann Arbor and in store windows.

Like some of us, these people don't celebrate Christmas. But unlike most of us, they are all worked up about it. They feel like they're being bombarded with Christmas spirit. They are tired of having it shoved into their faces. And they are frustrated because they do not have the option to look away.

Christmas is exactly where it always has been at this time of year.

Everywhere. There are decorations lining every street, Christmas specials dominating television air time. There are malls filled with Santa Claus and Christmas lights and people buying those dancing Santa dolls that shake back and forth to the tune of "Jingle Bell Rock." There is a national obsession with Christmas, or at least the secular part of Christmas. The Santa part. His elves. Rudolph. The trees. The lights. The music.

The frustration of the seasonal complainers is not hard to understand and it's probably pretty easy to sympathize with. But I dare to point out that there are other ways to spend time, doing things like sitting peacefully, which would be much more effective than doing things like thinking negatively and expressing negative thoughts. By adding their negativity to America's Christmas, the complainers are making the situation worse, adding more awkwardness, creating something else to complain about.

I really like Christmas. I think that Christmas carols are wonderful, Christmas lights are beautiful and mantles look perfect when Christmas stockings are hanging down. I smile every time I read Francis P. Church's "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," and I could watch "Miracle on 34th Street" four times in a row and enjoy it every time.

Strausz, a student from the University of Michigan, expresses her disappointment in her fellow non-Christians as they complain about the never-ending presence of Christmas throughout the month of December. She insists we calm down and realize that this is not a religious threat, but a secular holiday. Quiet the complaints, relax and enjoy it!

It is easy for me to appreciate Christmas as an observer without feeling like it is posing a religious threat.

The parallel that comes to mind is eating at a restaurant where another family is celebrating a birthday. You are in the same room as the family, but you don't have the same occasion to celebrate. At the end of the meal, when they sing to the birthday girl, the room fills up with the singing. And even though it is loud and it is not your celebration, you can still look over and smile.

The annual Christmas hype tends to last longer than the average birthday song, but the same principle applies. If you are pretty sure of who you are and what you are doing, then there is no need to feel threatened by someone else's celebration, even if it is in your face. You can look over, smile and continue your conversation, or even stop for a brief moment to cheer for the birthday girl as she blows out the candles on her cake.

I admit that the seasonal complainers (who would feel threatened by the birthday cake) actually have a few valid concerns. There are some Christmas songs that can get pretty annoying, especially ones like "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," when you include the extra lyrics ("like a light bulb"). And some Christmas decorations are just plain tacky.

But if we remember the pop songs that the radio stations play on repeat during the rest of the year, and if we keep in mind that there are some things around that are even more tacky than a grouping of life size glow-in-the dark plastic Santa Claus statues, we can keep these concerns in perspective and under control.

The complainers must have missed that day in elementary school when Miss Ferguson showed us that you shouldn't ever point at someone because three fingers will be pointing right back at you (four if you're double-jointed in the thumb). As the complainers point the blame at Christmas, the other fingers are pointing at us. It is not up to us to try to put a handle on Christmas. The solution lies in us, in our own attitudes, in our own religious identity.

Friday is the first night of Hanukkah, a relatively small Jewish festival that is rich in tradition and beauty. I'll picture the fingers pointing back at me as I light the menorah and sit peacefully as the flickering candles burn down.

Keeping the Holidays Off Your Waist

By Lara Nagle

Layout Editor

The holiday season has arrived. It is time for shopping, parties and the every familiar craze of holiday overeating. For the next few weeks there will be no forbidden foods, and desserts will be on every plate.

What good would it do for us to put any food on a "forbidden food list?" Unless we have extreme willpower then maybe we might be able to resist the temptations that spell out the word Fat. But come on, let's get real, all of us are weak, especially during the holiday season.

In order for all of us to get through this holiday binge fest, I have come up with a few guidelines to follow to ensure minimal damage. The first thing you need to do is to "Get off of the diet mentality." If you have put yourself on a diet or are thinking about going on a diet this holiday season, forget about it. You are only going to get yourself into trouble.

Let yourself go; this is the season for good food. If you see a piece of pie that you just can't wait to sink your teeth into, do it. Don't make yourself feel like you have "sinned." You will be setting yourself up for a disaster and self-defeat.

Don't skip meals. I know that I do this often, thinking I am going to have a huge calorie fest later on and I save my appetite.

Studies have shown that if you do skip meals and "save up" for the big celebration you will eat more than you intended to in the first place. You have already come to the meal starving and stuff yourself way over your limit.

Portion your food. Most people have been extremely successful in losing weight and keeping it off just by the simple strategy of portion control. This is extremely hard during the holiday season, but just eat reasonably, limit the foods that you know you should limit, and try not to stuff yourself.

A good strategy in portion control is dividing your plate into thirds. Sounds ridiculous, but it really does work. Think protein, vegetables and carbohydrates. Just imagine that your plate is divided into thirds. If you want to go for desserts include them in your carbohydrate section.

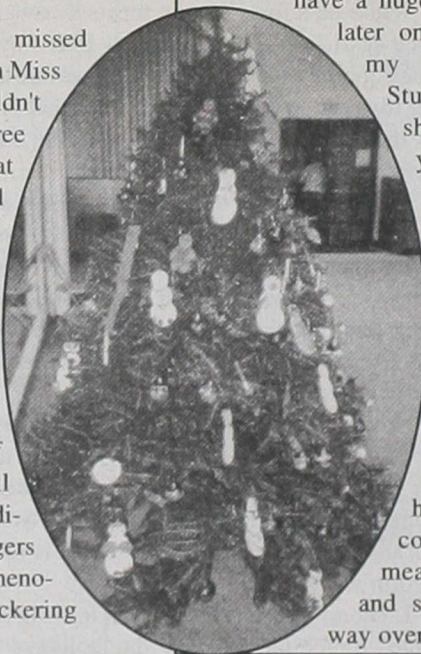
Go to the buffet line with a small plate. This sounds weird right? But a full salad plate psychologically feels the same as a big plate. It is all about tricking your mind into believing you are full. You can always go back for seconds, but this way you are giving yourself time to feel full.

This brings me to eating slowly. Some of us think that if we eat fast we will get full faster, but this is very misleading. Our bodies produce a hormone called CCK that signals your brain when you are full. It takes about 20 minutes for CCK to kick in, so eating slowly not only aids in digestion but it also gives your brain a chance to realize what your stomach is doing.

Always finish any big meal about an hour after you start it. If you see something later on that you forgot to eat, set it aside for the next day. Our bodies produce a second insulin hit, which triggers fat storage, if it senses a lot of food coming in. You can avoid this second hit of insulin by finishing an hour after you started eating.

The holidays are a great time for parties and celebrations with food, and a lot of it. I know none of us want to hear about dieting around this time, but if you follow some of these guidelines you can ensure that your big Christmas dinner will not end up on your hips.

Eating that one last piece of pie may look so tempting as it sits on the table, but remember it may lead to self-defeat later.



University Allows Students to Donate Points to Homeless

By Duncan Autrey

The GW Hatchet
George Washington University

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON -- George Washington University students now can help the homeless by donating their meal plan points.

A new system allows students to donate points to a fund used to purchase food at Miriam's Kitchen for homeless people.

The food and other essentials will be chosen based on a "wish list" prepared by the kitchen listing useful items. Donations are collected in increments of \$5 at the Provisions Market counter.

Chris Voss, chairman of the SA Dining Services Committee, organized the point-donation program with Lyle Vaughan, assistant director for Auxiliary and Institutional Services.

"It is appropriate for students who feel that they have points they can spare and give them to a good cause," Vaughan said.

While students have initiated donation programs in the past, Vaughan said the new point system is different from other charitable efforts.

"It is new to GW to give donations in such a high-tech creative manner," Vaughan said. Old programs included putting food in bins. Voss said the system, which was implemented in late October, will run "indefinitely."

"Ideally, students will be able to donate all year-round," Voss said.

Voss said he expects the program will get a "big boom," starting with a strong advertising push. He and other organizers said they hope to raise \$5,000 for Miriam's Kitchen. Voss said he hopes that the program will lead the University to establish a GW day at Miriam's Kitchen. "At this GW day students can serve a meal paid for by students," Voss said. Students would

also be able to hand out packets of basic necessities, including toothbrushes.

"This will be more than just donating money," Voss said.

Voss said the idea for the point-donation program began last semester when he overheard students mention they were uncomfortable giving money to homeless people. The students did not know if money would be spent on food but still felt bad about not giving anything to the homeless, Voss said.

Voss said the new donation system gives students the assurance that their money is being used to feed the homeless. Miriam's Kitchen was chosen because of its close proximity to GW at 2401 Virginia Ave., Voss said.

"There are only so many times that you can walk by someone who is hungry and not do something," Voss said. "It is time for GW to give back."

The holidays have special meanings for each individual person. Everyone celebrates it a different way, with their own unique traditions. At George Washington University, some students are getting into the holiday spirit through a program that allows them to provide for those who may otherwise go hungry by forfeiting their own meals.

The Oracle

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Winter Improvements Met with Student Criticism

By Julie Ahn

Staff Writer

Over the winter break, the Mount got busy repairing, repainting and redesigning the Chalon campus, which was beginning to show the wrinkled signs of old age.

The most notable items of repair included the replacement of fire doors in the Humanities Building, the newly redesigned floor of the Brady patio, the replacement of the pool deck, and the remodeling of over half the bathrooms in Rossiter Hall.

Though improvements generally mean something better has been done to what previously existed, the remodeling has received mixed student reviews.

The replacement of all 16 fire doors that lead to the first through fifth floors in

missing door handles and were beginning to take on a look of general deterioration.

Students on the most part reacted positively to this change, feeling the doors are a "sign that the Mount actually cares about our safety and is actively improving the campus," according to second year student Karen Sanchez.

However, the repainting and retiling of the Brady patio was a remodeling attempt met with criticism as well as praise. This change, though an attempt to beautify the campus, is met with distaste by some students who are reminded of the bitter debate on the controversial "no food out of the cafeteria" policy implemented last year.

"It looks like a much nicer place now, but what's the point if we can't even eat out there," senior Christina Diaz points out. [Editor's Note: Students can now eat out on the patio.]

Another bone of contention is the well-known fact that the Brady patio is one of the only places where students are allowed to smoke on campus.

Second year student Lydia Pham feels strongly that the improvement was made without realizing that the population it affected most is the smokers.

"It's wonderful to want to make our campus better, but why do they choose the Brady patio to redo? It's so obvious the only ones who really benefit are people who smoke and it doesn't make sense that they're getting something better out of

smoking."

Though the entire Mount community, staff and students, can still meet at the Brady patio to mingle with friends, share a snack or study together before class, they must endure the smoke still lingering in the air.

Pham explains "smokers are there a lot and I don't feel like smelling it or breathing it in... The money for that could have been used to really try and affect everyone not just a small part of the population."

Also targeted for construction was the pool. The concrete patio surrounding it was replaced by a cobblestone tiling that nearly matches the tennis courts. Controversy also surrounds this improvement with some students questioning the necessity of the remodeling, calling it a bad allocation of improvement funds.

In the Rossiter bathrooms, showers were added and rebuilt. The replacement of the showers was still in process when students returned from vacation with missing latches on some shower stalls. Maintenance crews regularly went in and out for repairs for the first few weeks.

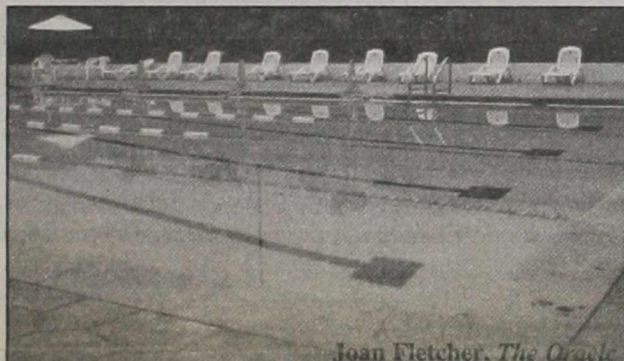
Showers on the second floor of Rossiter have been doubled from five to ten in hopes of creating easier accessibility for students. However, the attempt to build more showers is seen by some as a wasteful allocation of money.

Third year student Erin Reagan shares criticism for what she believes to be an inefficient change. "There had to be less than a handful of times I've waited more



Joan Fletcher, *The Oracle*

Recent renovations to the Brady Patio bring criticism and controversy over the practicality of the remodeling.



Joan Fletcher, *The Oracle*

A hall of photographs enhances the look of the ground floor of Brady. Students complain they cannot enjoy the photos as much, as they are placed past the Student Dining Hall, on the way to the Staff Dining Room.

the Humanities Building is undoubtedly one of the most substantial changes made.

The new fire doors are noted to be an improvement over the previous ones, which were showing signs of wear and tear. The hard to open doors often had

than three minutes for a shower... I'd rather have air conditioning in the classes or better food in the cafeteria," she remarks.

One small change that most everyone can enjoy is the addition of five large photographs along the hallway near the Dining Hall. The pictures show classic images of the Mount.

The most striking is one of the Circle with the backdrop of two rainbows in the sky. Interestingly, the pictures are displayed where the staff can appreciate them most, just past the Student Dining Hall. Nevertheless, students can stroll down the hallway to appreciate the beauty of the Mount in years past.

Sister's Death Shocks Mount Students Around the World

By Vianney Vasquez

Doheny Editor

It was only last December she was walking from buildings to building, helping students at the Doheny Campus. "Two weeks before the semester ended she helped me with my philosophy paper," recalls third year student Jenny Arteaga.

Those images of her still fresh in people's minds are what make it difficult to believe that Sister Margaret Rose Cafferty is no longer with us. Her sudden death on January 5th was a shock to everyone, especially to those enrolled in her spring classes or who may have needed her help in the Learning Resource Center.

"I cannot believe it," were the words that students continuously blurted out as they discovered her death. Third year student Claudia Portillo said that Sister Margaret Rose had such a presence, making it difficult to accept her death. Portillo says that she can still see her walking, "with a cup full of ice in her hand and a big smile on her face."

Some still expect her to pass by and say "Hello," as she always did. Third year student Wilma Ramirez admitted, "It dawned on me that I would never see her again during her prayer service. It was then I realized that she was gone forever."

The shock of her death was so striking because she

was very close to students. If she was not teaching English or Speech, she was in the Learning Resource Center helping students with papers.

Third year student Odmary Barrios remembers that Sister Margaret Rose knew her name and helped her with essays even though she never had her in class. Barrios says that she cannot picture the Learning Resource Center without her because it was always, "that threesome, Sister Carol, Sister Constance and Sister Margaret Rose. Now that one is missing, the Learning Resource Center will not be the same."

She touched people's lives in positive ways. That is how third year student Aracely Del Cid remembers Sister Margaret Rose. She says that when she arrived at the Mount she was not very good with grammar. "It was Sister who taught me all I know about writing. She would help me in class, after class and before class. She was an excellent teacher and I will miss her."

Sister Margaret Rose was also a vital part of the Doheny Campus. She was greatly respected and loved by the students. It will be difficult to accept that she will no longer be here to help us. However, she is now with her Creator probably helping Him in some way. She will be greatly missed but will forever be remembered, walking around the Doheny Campus with that cup full of ice in her hand and that big smile on her face. (see also Tribute in *Final Word*, page 8)

• The Mount chose Dr. Jacqueline Powers Doud as its next President. The search for a new Provost has begun.

• Radar data helps in solving the mystery of the crash of Alaska Airlines Flight 261. The L.A. Times reported claims that a piece may have broken off the plane seconds before its unexpected descent and plunge into the Pacific off the coast of Ventura County on January 31. All 88 people onboard the flight perished.

• Air raids targeting Lebanese guerrilla bases were launched by Israel Tuesday. This attack comes as a response to weeks of fighting that resulted in the deaths of 5 Israeli soldiers and a senior allied commander. L.A. Times

reported Tuesday that "Lebanon does not have the military capability to counter an Israeli attack, but strikes like the ones launched Tuesday usually invite guerrilla retaliation in the form of Katyusha rockets aimed at Israel's northern border towns."

• Na Pua O Ka Aina's first annual Lu'au, Ke Alauala... The Dawning of a New Era, will be held at the Mount on Friday, March 31, 2000. Doors will open at 5 p.m. Dinner will start at 5:30 p.m. and the show will start at 7:30 p.m.

Ticket prices are as follows: Presale—\$7 for food, \$3 for the show, Door—\$8 for food, \$4 for the show. Tickets will go on sale the first week of March.

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Is the Death Penalty Terminally Flawed?

By Jeffrey Eisenberg

Cavalier Daily (U. Virginia)

(U-WIRE) CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.

They inserted a needle in Raymond Landry's arm. Lethal injection. Suddenly, the needle escaped Landry's arm, spewing toxic chemicals in the direction of the observers. Landry lived through the most unimaginable thing during the last 40 minutes of his life - a botched execution.

Landry was a convicted first-degree murderer, not necessarily a great guy. But his execution is a stain on us all. Executions, botched or perfect, are wrong. There are far too many possibilities for error in applying the death penalty. That's why Illinois Gov. George H. Ryan (R) has publicly declared a moratorium on all future lethal injections.

Ryan was alarmed that for every execution, one death row inmate had his sentence reduced or overturned. This was because the state had relied on insufficient evidence or had received new evidence or confessions by the truly guilty. That means that a large shadow of doubt underscores many executions.

According to a 1987 study conducted by Adam Bedau, a vocal anti-Capital Punishment scholar, 23 innocent people were executed in the last century alone. Another study conducted by the Stanford Law Review in 1987 places the figure at 25.

Imperfect justice and the death penalty don't mix. No person's judgment is infallible. Judges and juries are prone to make mistakes and they often do. Twenty-three innocent people killed by the state is evidence that the system has failed, that it is failing, and forever is doomed to failure.

A 1997 NAACP Legal Defense Fund

study found that minorities and the impoverished are disproportionately found on death row in relation to their white and wealthy counterparts. Yet, a majority of all violent crime is committed by whites.

Clearly, due process of law is at stake. If everyone isn't treated equally before the eyes of the law, then capital punishment's crime is more than one against humanity. It erodes our system of justice. Blind justice is the only justice.

But why get rid of a system just because its parts might need lubrication? When a system takes away lives -- as with capital punishment -- there must be standards for upholding the system. Those standards must be compelling. The current ones are not.

The harms associated with capital punishment are clear. The benefits of capital punishment are nonexistent. Most advocates reason that if others see death as a punishment, they will be less likely to commit crimes. But even if deterrence did work, the punishment would have to occur promptly, consistently and openly.

Promptly because no criminal worries what will happen 10 years down the road. Consistently because, hey, if everyone else's lawyers can get them off then what do I have to fear. And openly, that's the easiest of all: Changing a person's behavior is dependent on exposure to the very source of deterrence.

None of this is the case in our legal system today. With appeals and stays, an execution comes long after the crime and at a high cost to taxpayers. Consistency also is at issue. Not everyone who commits the same crime serves the same punishment.

Even more ludicrous is the fact that

deterrence rests on altering behavior. But the death penalty isn't even conducted openly and criminals can't be exposed to the consequence of death.

Yet, if capital punishment were applied quickly, regularly and publicly, due process would fall by the wayside. Those on death row who now are exonerated, would have been killed in a rush to send a message long ago. That's impermissible.

Underlying deterrence theory, though, is an assumption that people will alter their behavior for fear of dying. Many criminals are irrational and commit crimes of passion. In a fit of passion, nobody is weighing the consequences of his or her actions. But even to the cold, calculating type, life in prison with chance of parole taken away by the state might be an equally strong deterrent. For many, being deprived of liberty inspires just as much trepidation as losing your life.

Gov. Ryan, however, has not taken the final and crucial step of repudiating the death penalty in Illinois. He is hesitant due to procedural and structural errors. But there is another side to the coin. The death penalty is state police power taken to a far extreme. The decision to terminate life never should be the government's.

The cynics will shout about repeat offenses among criminals released on parole. But to curb this, life in prison must actually mean life. With that, we can eliminate all of the superfluous court costs from death row appeals that outweigh costs of life sentences, saving taxpayer money.

Take note, Texas Gov. George W. Bush (R). Three executions a month is three too many. Virginia isn't far behind. Gov. Ryan is leading by example. Let's start following.

From My Point of View

Coming from the point of view of a student leader, I am extremely disappointed and frustrated with this college. Over the past months, I have commented time and again about the lack of true leadership opportunities we have at the Mount. Sure, we can join RHA, ASB, The Oracle or a variety of other clubs, but is there anywhere that we can take on a true leadership role rather than merely joining a club? In my experience? No.

I came from an extremely active high school where student rights were taken seriously. We were allowed to grow and develop without someone always trying to hold our hand. I had the opportunity to see true leaders develop. I met people who will become the politicians, doctors and leaders of the future. We were encouraged by our administration even though they had the same concerns about the "need" for censorship.

I regret having come to college to regress to a middle-school-aged mentality where I need PERMISSION to do anything. I am not allowed to make decisions on my own. My writings are considered too vague because I do not single anyone out and don't cite examples. Personally, libel charges aren't on my list of college experiences that I want. Plus, any student who has seen the incredible politics at work at this college will understand where I'm coming from. I know you understand.

—Joan Fletcher, Editor

THE ORACLE

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Take a Stand for Equal Rights:

Vote No on 22

By Samantha Whitney

Contributing Writer

Every once in a while there comes an opportunity for people to join together and stand up against injustice. Voting no on Proposition 22, which defines marriage as specifically between a man and a woman, is one of these opportunities.

This proposition is not about how you feel about homosexuality. It is not about whether or not you like gay people, want to be friends with them, or are even gay yourself. It is irrelevant if you think homosexual sex is sinful or if you are just disgusted by the thought of it.

This proposition is about justice. It is about human rights being equal rights and ensuring that all citizens are treated fairly. Those who favor Proposition 22 claim that allowing homosexual couples to marry will destroy the sanctity of marriage. This is simply untrue. If a gay couple down the street is married, how will it ruin your heterosexual marriage or make it any less meaningful?

I believe that allowing homosexuals to marry shows how very much our society values marriage. It demonstrates that we believe love, commitment, monogamy and dedication are important values and, even more importantly, that we believe all people have the same rights.

For people who believe homosexual sex is a sin, your church—not your government—is the appropriate place for such a discussion. Believing that homosexual sex is wrong for religious reasons is certainly a person's right. However, this does not mean that we should be legislating such religious ideals. For the sake of justice, put aside your religious beliefs and do what is right.

Passing this proposition is just another step toward hatred, homophobia and misunderstandings. When we continually devalue homosexuals as human beings, we encourage the violence that plagues the gay community. Horrific murders such as that of Mathew Shepherd occur because we legitimize, and even legislate, homophobia. Suicide rates among gay teenagers are exceptionally high and continue to rise because we make gay people feel isolated and unaccepted.

Voting no on Proposition 22 does not say that you "approve" of homosexuality. People will not suddenly become gay because gay marriage is legalized (not that the defeating of this proposition would legalize gay marriage). People who are gay will be gay; people who are straight will be straight. If gay marriage is legalized, homosexual couples already in loving relationships would be able to get married rather than just go on living together for years. Young people who are gay can feel a sense of hope, seeing a normal future for themselves. There will not be a sudden rush of "gay converts," I promise.

Many people ask "why do gay people have to get married? Why can't they just go on as they are?" There is a simple answer to this question. There are many rights and privileges given to married couples. There are rights concerning hospital visitations, medical decisions, property rights and tax rights, just to name a few. These are not "special" rights. They are rights that we all deserve to enjoy. We are not doing gay people a favor by allowing them to marry; we are carrying out justice.

Last year, after six years of dating, my boyfriend and I decided to get engaged. Our families and friends celebrated. They threw us a party; people sent cards and brought us gifts. Our mothers had it announced in the local paper and my high school printed it in the alumni newsletter. We now refer to each other as "fiancee" and are busily planning our wedding...and our future. The happiness we have enjoyed surrounding this event in our lives should not be a heterosexual privilege. Everyone is entitled to this joy. If people are lucky enough to find someone with whom they want to spend eternity, why not celebrate with them?

This proposition is founded on bigotry, ignorance and hatred. In every age there has been a hated group of people within society. In ours, it is the homosexual community. Generations later, we look back with shame at how people were treated and we scoff. We wonder how good people could ever have treated other human beings in such a terrible manner. Let us not be the abusers. Let ours be the generation that realizes that no matter how we may feel on a personal level, all human beings deserve respect, dignity and equal rights.

The Confederate Flag: Symbol of Hate or Heritage?

By Claudia Almanza

Staff Writer

What image do people perceive when a flag with a red background and white stars on a blue cross is shown or demonstrated? The confederate flag causes mixed feelings for Americans, but what is the bases for this controversy anyway? For many, it is an emblem of their southern heritage and also may epitomize the ultimate in patriotism. For others, it brings back horrid memories or tales of slavery and racism. The Ku Klux Klan reinforces the negative image by using the Confederate flag as their own.

The controversy was resurrected because the statehouse of South Carolina flies the flag. It has been flown over the building since 1962, when it was raised to commemorate the centennial of the Civil War. The state legislature has refused to remove the flag because they claim it produces nostalgia for all of the brave young men that fought during the Civil War.

In opposition to South Carolina state legislature, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) announced plans for a national tourism boycott to pressure the removal of the offensive flag. The boycott will include products manufactured in South Carolina and sporting events held in the state. Boycotters will also urge potential athletes not to attend state colleges in South Carolina. Since the announcement, more than 80 groups have canceled meetings and conventions in South Carolina.

The main issue has to do with the fact that symbols can be powerful and provocative, especially a flag. It might bring pride to some, but will bring remembrances of oppression to others. My question is, if people know it harms others, why not just remove it?

For example, in the state of California, a law was passed to prohibit smoking in restaurants and public places because it harmed and caused damage to the majority of those around them, despite opposition from those who wished to continue to exercise their right to smoke in public. If California was able to do that with smoking, which is a freedom of choice issue, why can't South Carolina do that with a piece of cloth?

I know many claim it to be a freedom of speech, which is protected by the First Amendment in the Constitution, but by expressing that freedom South Carolinians are violating the rights for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for those being offended. If the Confederate Flag is a great symbol of heritage for some Southerners, why not just put it in a museum where it's meaning can be interpreted by the individuals who wish to see it?

Such pride does not have to be displayed on the pole of the Statehouse or any other government building where it may cause "mixed feelings," which may later lead to a dilemma or further oppression, which historically has been a problem throughout the South.

Many people do not feel the importance of such an issue because they have never lived in the South. They have not felt the pain, disgust or pride many experience when they see the Confederate flag. However, we might be able to relate in other issues. The solution is to simply be conscious of others' feelings. The main purpose for the government is to comply or figure out what the majority of the people want and need. If only a few wish for the Confederate flag to be flown but the majority is offended and wants it removed, what is the flag still doing up? The world is filled with issues and controversies, we do not need this one.

By Noemi Rosales

Another View

Contributing Writer

Throughout recent weeks, many politicians, such as presidential hopefuls Al Gore and John McCain, have debated along with groups such as the NAACP on whether or not the Confederate flag should fly above South Carolina's Statehouse.

The controversy that lies behind this flag is a legitimate one. On one side, Southerners claim that the Confederate flag and the ancestry it symbolizes are what make the South what it is. It is a way to honor the men who served bravely with the Confederacy during our country's Civil War. To deny the flag would be like denying their history, their heritage and their sacrifices.

On the other hand, the Confederate flag is a symbol of oppression, especially to African-Americans who see the flag as a symbol of the cruelest and most base form of oppression; slavery.

To them as well as to other Americans, seeing the Confederate flag fly over a state building gives the world the impression that a state's supreme authority openly accepts oppression in all its forms.

All in all, a state separated with this issue has brought to the nation's attention a controversy: What is behind the Confederate flag and all it stands for? Why does it spark so much controversy? Are both sides overreacting?

In all honesty, they are not overreacting. Unfortunately, our nation has gotten to a point where everything has to be politically correct. Add to this a need to categorize everything and

everyone from race to financial stability or lack thereof.

To keep track of the different groups that make up our country, they or we have provided labels or other symbols.

Why then is the Confederate flag controversial? In all fairness, the Confederate flag is a symbol of Southern heritage. There was a Confederate Army that fought not for slavery but for the South's separation from the Union. Slavery was never a motive for the war until Lincoln announced his Emancipation Proclamation.

The controversy begins after the war when groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and Neo-Nazis have utilized the flag to symbolize their hatred. It is those people who are to blame for this controversy.

People who are against the Confederate flag flying over state buildings have a right to be outraged. To them, a flag that has been used as a symbol of hatred, racism and violence does not belong above a state building. And they are right.

It is painful to see a symbol of hatred in a prominent position ready for racist and hatred-filled people to manipulate it in any way possible. It gives a message that the lives of civil rights activists such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks were given up in vain.

If I had the power to decide over this manner I would take down that flag. If it must fly somewhere, it will be above a museum dedicated to the people who fought bravely for the South during a war where brother was fighting brother.

Send Elian Home...To Cuba!

By Lauren Chilstrom

Opinions Editor

In November 1999, six-year-old Elian Gonzalez was found off the coast of Florida after his mother, stepfather and nine others drowned while attempting to illegally enter the United States from Cuba.

From the moment the child was plucked from the Atlantic Ocean, he has become the rope in an international tug-of-war that has escalated far beyond Elian's "best interest."

Since his arrival in the United States, Elian's great-uncle Lazaro Gonzalez has filed a lawsuit in federal court in an attempt to appeal a prior ruling that Elian be returned to his home, and father, in Cuba.

According to US Attorney General Janet Reno, Elian's status in this country is solely a matter for immigration in the jurisdiction of federal law.

The federal law on immigration is blatantly obvious to those of us who have lived in Southern California for any length of time: illegal immigrants that are caught crossing the border are put on the first little green bus back to Mexico, period. So why is this case any different?

Had Elian been 26 instead of six when he was discovered, there would have been no question about what was to be done with him. He would be back in

Cuba at this very moment and that would have been the end of the story. However, many people are turning a relatively simple immigration issue into a complicated custody battle that no one should be fighting.

Elian's relatives in Florida are attempting to persuade the US government to grant the child asylum, allowing him to live in this country legally.

However, David Abraham, a professor of immigration law at the University of Miami, points out that "the legal issue has been who speaks for a six-year-old boy, and the answer is the closest surviving relative."

In this case, Elian's closest surviving relative is his biological father, who still happens to live in Cuba. And since Elian's father has not expressed any wishes other than to have his child returned to him, I would say that this case should have been over months ago.

Elian's great-uncle has no more right to make decisions for that child than any other Cuban that happens to live in Miami.

Clearly both sides of this case have lost sight of the real issue at hand: what is in the best interest of this child? Would keeping him here in America be worth making the political statement if it compromises Elian's well being?



It seems that everyone, especially the political figures involved, is more concerned with turning this into an anti-Castro, anti-Communism statement. It sounds like the only real reason they believe Elian should stay in this country is because they believe that anything has to be better than living in a Communist country.

However, I don't think that anyone has bothered to think that maybe, just maybe, a little six-year-old boy would rather just live with his daddy, wherever that may happen to be.

I hope that sometime soon someone will actually take into account what this little boy really wants. I seriously doubt that Elian really came up with the idea to seek asylum in this country and has said that he wanted to go home to his father.

It is also doubtful that he will be content to live in this country for long just because he can go to Disneyworld and have TV cameras follow him to school every morning.

Unless Elian's father is proven to be abusive, neglectful or otherwise unfit to be a parent (and living in Cuba doesn't qualify as unfit), it is my hope that this child is reunited with his father in Cuba as soon as humanly possible.

Editorial: Hazing on Campus?

Are you a member of a fraternity or sorority? Have you been forced to partake in any activities you were not comfortable with in pledging or joining that group? If so, you may have experienced hazing. To combat the potential hazards associated with hazing, the Student Activities Office on the Chalon campus sponsored a hazing workshop. Setting the example, they made it mandatory to attend, with harsh threats of consequences for absent members. Needless to say, the workshop didn't work out exactly as they planned.

First of all, there are many reasons I don't agree with this workshop being mandatory. Of course, I agree it is a vital issue in the college community and must be addressed. However, the way it was approached was totally and completely wrong. The first sign of hazing is unrealistic requirements (the key word here is normally "mandatory") with harsh punishments or consequences for noncompliance. From this definition, requiring this workshop as they did made it fit under the umbrella of events related to hazing.

My second problem is the fact that only Greek organizations were required to attend. Hazing is not just a Greek problem. It can happen in any organization. In addition, the Greek clubs we have on campus are not the stereotypical sororities or fraternities. Some do not pledge or rush, making this workshop fairly irrelevant to them, especially because it was geared toward the two activities.

Though it seems like a good idea, the workshop failed in its objectives to teach Mount organizations about hazing. The examples provided were too harsh and unrealistic. Everyone knows killing a person or forcing them to drink alcohol is hazing, but that is not necessarily the type of hazing that will occur at the Mount. The examples provided that were relevant in any way to the Mount all pointed to one organization. It was fairly obvious who this workshop targeted, with examples of hazing being carrying around stuffed animals, greeting actives and having them sign a notebook.

Many club leaders feel their time was wasted in attending this meeting. Their purpose there was to gather the information and share it with their club so that they could prevent hazing in the future. However, no hand-outs were given and no visual aids were provided. Many students commented that it would have been more helpful if the coordinators had been more prepared. Their facts were not totally researched and they weren't prepared for the questions that came up. In the future, research should be done beforehand and the workshop should be directed more toward the activities found at the Mount, not a broad description of activities nationwide.

What Do You Know About Black History

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

"So let freedom ring" and "this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed" are part of the famous speech, "I Have a Dream," by Martin Luther King. Both quotes are shown in society today and their significance is continually growing. Many Americans know about Martin Luther King and acknowledge the real significance of his life and his cause.

With these two famous quotes, I would like to take you on a journey of African-American roots that is generally an overlooked aspect of these historical Americans. You will see through the glass that was once foggy with emotions of frustration and the rise above "bondage," not as many perceive it as "slavery for blacks only," but a call for all people to unraveling of the bandages of oppression and racism to weave the progressive and entirely diverse American quilt.

Jan E. Matzeliger, an inventor, patented the shoe lasting machine and revolutionized the shoe-making industry. This machine could adjust a shoe, drive in the nails and deliver 700 pairs of shoes a day, a great improvement compared to the 50-a-day done manually. He did not live long enough to prosper from the profits that resulted from his invention, but he died of tuberculosis in 1883, at the young age of 37.

Another woman, a pioneer stand-up comedienne, was once known as the funniest women in the world. She was known as Jackie "Moms" Mabley. She began her career in the 20s in vaudeville, what we now consider to be something like a cabaret. In 1969, she made the Pop Top 40 singles charts singing a tribute to Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and John F. Kennedy.

Louis B. Lautier became one of the first blacks accredited to the Congressional Press galleries. As a journalist for the Atlanta Daily World, he became the first black journalist to

become a member of the National Press Club of Washington in 1955.

Another notable African American was a great baseball player with the Milwaukee Braves. He hit 755 regular-season home runs, more than any other in major league history. He was also elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982. His name is Henry "Hank" Aaron.

Mary McLeod Bethune became the first black woman to head a United States government agency. She founded Daytona Normal and Industrial School, what is today the Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida. She was applauded for her work there. Before her death in 1955, she formed the National Council of Negro Women.

In 1954, Thurgood Marshall led the team which won the landmark school desegregation case, *Brown v. Board of Education*. He was awarded the NAACP's highest honor, the Spingarn Medal. President L.B. Johnson appointed him the first black on the United States Supreme Court in 1967.

Debi Thomas was the first black to win an Olympic medal in figure skating. In 1986, she was the first black figure skater to win both the United States and World figure skating championships.

In 1986, Ron Dellums, an African-American Congressman accomplished his almost impossible—passing the bill for non-apartheid in South Africa.

There are countless others that have been overlooked. L. Douglas Wilder, was the first African-American to be elected a state governor in the United States. Minnie Julia Riperton, who had an amazing range of 5 octaves, was a famous singer and songwriter. Hiram R. Revels was the first black U.S. Senator. B. Doyle Mitchell was president and chairman of the nation's oldest minority owned bank, Industrial Bank of Washington.

In more recent years African-Americans have continued to encourage the minds of others to broaden even wider with innovation.

In February of 1997, Janet

Clayton, editor of the Los Angeles Times newspaper editorial pages, was named a Vice President of the newspaper.

In 1999, Congress awarded Rosa Parks a Congressional Gold Medal, one of the nation's highest civilian awards granted.

Wanda Collier-Wilson is the first black woman to hold the position as permanent executive director for the Jackson, Mississippi Convention and Visitors Bureau. She is also the first person ever to be promoted to the top spot in the Bureau and is therefore responsible for an overall annual budget that is approximately \$2.5 million.

Darrell L. Davis is now the first black laboratory director for the Drug Enforcement Administration's Office of Forensic Sciences in Dallas, Texas.

The founder and manager of Parkway Realty, in New Orleans, Louisiana, is now the first black president of the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors (NOMAR). NOMAR is an association that "raises the standards of real estate practice, preserves the rights of property ownership in the interests of public welfare, and maintain high ethical standards."

Camilla Moore, vice president of marketing and sales for Lucent Technologies' Government Solutions Business unit in Washington D.C., has been named a sales vice president for the telecommunications company assuming overall responsibility for Lucent sales to SBC Communications Ameritech and Pacific Nevada sales teams.

Aaron McGruder, a cartoonist, now has his comic strip, "The Boondocks," syndicated in 215 newspapers and is developing an animated series for HBO.

All of these people put meaning into our country today. They have opened up many doors for minorities, which will allow later generations to open doors, and minds, for themselves. The way we work, play, talk, analyze, discuss, and think are all influenced by history and the people making history today. They put together the pieces that connect the cloth to create the Quilt of America.

Food Review of... Mongols BBQ

By Asilki Jones

Staff Writer

Last year, my comrades and I became infatuated with the lovely little Mongolian barbecue restaurant on the corner of Bundy and Wilshire. As many of you may know, this was a wonderful place where you could order a regular dish or build your own lo mien. I say "build" because it really was just that: you are given a bowl onto which you may pile as many of a variety of toppings and noodles as high as you possibly can.

Sometimes the servers even help you fit more into the bowl. There really is an art and science to it: the idea is to stack the bowl so high you have leftovers. When your mountain-high masterpiece is completed, one of the servers will mix you together a lovely sauce using a combination of garlic, soy sauce, ginger, and hot sauce, depending on your desired flavor. The bowl is then given to the cook, who stir fries it right in front of you in record time, using only giant chopsticks. He then splits the mixture into 2 bowls and gives them to you. All this glory plus yummy sesame breadsticks, soup, and rice for under \$10!

For whatever unfortunate reason, this delightful little haven for the hungry tummy was shut down. Grrrr. Perhaps it was the B food rating. We will never know. My friends and I were quite depressed about this until we stumbled on another Mongolian BBQ restaurant during one of our weekly romps through Westwood. (It really is a hole in the wall so pay attention so you don't pass it by. We walked past it for nearly a year without noticing it!) I had to try it, and so for the first food review of the year, I went to Mongols BBQ in Westwood located on Gayley near Penny Lane.

The restaurant operates in much the same way as the other Mongolian BBQ. There is a choice of 2 meals here. Meal number one comes with soup, rice, and breadsticks. Meal number two comes with the bowl and a drink. Both cost around \$7 or \$8. However, unlike the Wilshire Mongolian, this Mongolian BBQ has bad soup. I have had it twice and tasted ketchup in it each time.

Unless you really like rice and breadsticks (which are really quite good), get meal number two. The place has a busy, yet pleasant environment and everyone is rather helpful. Bottom line? The price is superior, the food yummy+, the atmosphere, well, eh? and a half (it is not as clean as the old Mongolian BBQ, but tolerable), and the service is good. Go there when you are hungry and broke, bring a friend and split a meal. You will NOT leave disappointed or hungry.

Food Rating Scale:

- 5- Superior. It will make you emit little noises of happiness.
- 4- Yummy. Wow, this is noteworthy.
- 3- Good, but not mind-blowing
- 2- Eh?- Decent, but just barely. You can skip it.
- 1- Whew! Do NOT go in there. Someone shoot the cook/waiter/prices.

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WHAT IS THAT THING ON BRADY PATIO????

Check out the new Scenic Binoculars on Brady Patio!!

They are the Senior Class gift to Mount St. Mary's from the Class of 1999.
Thank you to all those in the Class of '99 who made this gift possible!!

If you would like to be on the Senior Class Gift committee for the Class of 2000, please see Laura Schmierer or call Angela at extension 2536 or Liz at x 2534.

First organizational meeting is scheduled for February 29 at 1 p.m. in the President's Conference Room.

Attention:

Spring 2000 Graduates

Due to a college-wide upgrade of our student software system, graduation checks for Spring 2000 have been delayed in processing. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you. If you have urgent questions about your graduation check, feel free to contact the Registrar's Office at (310) 954-4020. We expect to have all graduation checks completed by early February.

Valentines Day: Overrated or Underestimated?

Why Not Valentine's Day Everyday?

By Claudia L. Almanza
Staff Writer

I don't know if you've gone to the store lately and found yourself in the middle of hearts and cupids, chocolates and teddy bears and asked yourself... Is it that time of year ALREADY? Well I have and let me tell you, it gets worse every year! What is it with all of this insanity? I understand it is a day to show the one you love how much they mean to you, but shouldn't this love be demonstrated or expressed throughout the year and NOT just one-day out of the year. I will be the first one to admit when I am mistaken, but ask yourself this, wouldn't you like to be surprised with sweet little nothings every so often, rather than wait for that ONE DAY? If you agree with me, then you also agree that Valentine's Day is a BIT overrated. Now don't think I am a bitter prude and please don't misinterpret me. I like the idea of receiving flowers and a card from my significant other, but I just believe in receiving them once in a while, not just once a year. I am a romantic and a dreamer. I love the entire concept of having a nice evening of conversation, tender moments, and lots and lots of romance! Let me give you an insight on my Dream Date for Valentine's Day - and it does not contain a Backstreet Boy anywhere! For starters, three dozen roses are not a necessity. I am just as thrilled with a single rose, but it has to be my favorite rose - pinkish-white with the petal tips a darker pink with peach in them. These roses are hard to find and if he is able to get me one, I know he took the time to do some research and "rose hunting." The evening will proceed with dinner reservations in a nice restaurant that has a live band playing soft jazz in the background, with candles everywhere. After dinner, we would go to the nearest beach and take a walk along the shore. I love to see the reflection the ocean gives the moonlight. Hopefully the skies will be clear or at least clear enough to see a couple of stars. I don't think I ask any different from any other girl on this planet, some love, a bit of attention, and lots of affection. The only difference is that I want it all of the time!

"V-day is a basic ideal about treating your loved ones the best that you can, but really you should do that every day, not just once a year...It takes away what V day is supposed to be and makes it a holiday where people can see how much they spend."

—Ken Lee, third year student.

"My freshman year here I came back from class and right away I saw a huge white teddy bear. One paw had a bouquet of roses, and the other paw held a bag with Godiva chocolates and a poem he had handwritten in calligraphy for me. It was so sweet."

—Gina Peralta, third year student.

"V-day is based on money...we put a value on what we get, rather than seeing it as a day of love...take it from an industry insider."

—Lorena Garcia, fourth year student, flower shop cashier.

"I remember one year was so special because every year he just got me flowers and that's what I expected. But he surprised me with a beautiful music box with our names engraved and the date that we met."

—Adriana Quinones, third year student

"You're supposed to be affectionate all year, not just on V-day." —Sara DeMarco, second year student.

What was your most romantic Valentine's experience?

"A candle-lit dinner."

What was the most embarrassing?

"A guy was supposed to cook dinner, but he flaked."

What things do you do when you're single?

"Buy your girlfriends and mom gifts for Valentine's Day and exchange gifts!"

What is the best place to go?

"Have a picnic at the park by the lake."

—Imelda Torres

What does Valentine's Day mean to you?

"Friendship and Love."

What are you doing as a single person?

"Spending Valentine's with Hector, a friend of mine. We're going Salsa dancing."

What's the best thing you did on Valentine's Day?

"I prepared a candle-light dinner and bought him a cake for his birthday the next day."

—Christina Mejia

Compiled by Kim Tran, Managing Editor

By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer

Valentine's Day means different things to different people. For those in a long-lasting relationship, it is a special day to celebrate their love and recognize how much they mean to each other. Single people tend to harbor disdain towards Valentine's Day because it is a lover's holiday. Of course it's hard to enjoy a day centered around significant others when you don't have one!

Others say it is just another pointless holiday in which candy makers, flower shops, and expensive restaurants make more money. Lighten up! I agree that Valentine's Day should be a concept celebrated all year round, and if you are in a good relationship it already is. If your guy or girl never tells you they love you or buys you a flower just because you are you, then why are you with them?

Relationships aren't about money or gifts. The bond between two people is built on love. I remember the time my wonderful boyfriend Chris drove four long hours just to leave a rose on my doorstep. The note said, "I just wanted you to know how much I love you." He knew I was home and didn't knock. Four hours! For me! And it was in the middle of April, not Valentine's Day, or my birthday, or our anniversary.

Couples in good, healthy relationships know that Valentine's Day is another excuse to show one's devotion to another. If it means buying oversized bears and chocolate and beautiful flowers then so be it! What's wrong with that? Couples have to understand one thing. Valentine's Day might include a pricey meal and expensive gifts. This doesn't make up for the rest of the year! If my boyfriend only did nice things for me on Valentine's Day, I most certainly would not stay with him.

The Not-So-Casual Movie Goer's Pre-Oscar Movie Round-up

By Joycelyn Lee

Entertainment Editor

In the current pre-Oscar season of January to February, major movie studios feel compelled to release their strongest works, bombarding audiences with a slew of so-called Academy-Award-worthy (and no-so-worthy) selections from the major contenders. Here is a sampling of the Not-So-Casual Movie-Goer's take on a few recent releases:

The Talented Mr. Ripley (***/1/2)

I have mixed feelings on TTMR. It is the tale of an opportunistic possibly bisexual, outsider named Tom Ripley (Matt Damon) who makes the most of his impersonator talents and musical ability in order to attain la dolce vita (the sweet life). He befriends, murders, and ultimately assumes the identity of a wealthy ex-patriate American named Dickie Greenleaf (Jude Law), while getting chummy with Dickie's Grace Kelly-esque girlfriend Marge Sherwood (Gwyneth Paltrow) in 1950s Italy.

Filmed on location, the setting of Mongie, the Italian villa where half the movie is shot is absolutely breath-taking. If nothing else, the scenic backdrop of Italy, the tableau of the opera, and classic architecture is indeed a treat for the eyes.

However, the sloppy unfolding of events and the unbelievability of certain premises makes for an uncomfortable viewing. Also chilling is the fact that audiences are essentially looking through the eyes of a psychopath and are forced to make sense of it.

Kudos to the solid, charismatic performances of the supporting cast of the film, namely Dickie and Meredith Logue, (Cate Blanchett) a friendly, dim-witted heiress smitten with Tom Ripley. Combined, these elements make TTMR great to look at, entertaining at times, but

nothing too terribly profound or memorable.

Galaxy Quest **

In a nutshell, the film is about a team of has-been actors of a corny but popular TV show called "Galaxy Quest." They are led by Jason Nesmith (Tim Allen) and Gwen DeMarco (Sigourney Weaver).

Aliens known as Thermians believe the show's space heroes to be the real thing and recruit the rag-tag team into space to battle the evil General Sarris and his posse.

Ahem. I'll admit that, yes, that a spoof of the whole "Star Trek" enterprise is long over due, and GQ does a decent job of accomplishing this in non-insulting manner. If you are a Trekkie, the plot elements will seem comfortably familiar. But as far as the rest of the movie goes, can we spell CHEESY???

There was nothing in this tedious flick that couldn't have been better executed in less than an hour. There are some briefly humorous scenes, for example, when a glorified TV extra witnesses an alien and human making out, and exclaims, "Oh, that's not RIGHT!" (I couldn't help but chuckle.)

However, these laughs were few and far between and not enough to make me recommend it to you, unless you're a die-hard follower of frighteningly cultish Trekkie movement, or have 8 bucks to waste. (special thanks to Frankie McQuown and Stephanie Rotter for their input).

Anna and the King (*1/2)

This newest adaptation of the memoirs of Anna Leonowens, (who is played by Jodie Foster), a prudish English tutor

who journeys to Siam with her spoiled young son in the 1800s to educate the 50 children of the King Mongkut of Siam (played by Chow-Yun Fat), could not be more tedious.

Warning: viewing Anna and the King may cause the viewer to slip into a deep coma. Do not watch unless you are an extreme fan of Foster's, Chow's or 19th century period pieces in general. Apologies for my bluntness, but the 2+ hour length was horrendous.

The grand scene in which Mongkut asks Anna to dance, which was supposed to function as the emotional centerpiece of the story, failed miserably. The only emotion I felt was boredom. Do yourself a favor. Go rent "The King and I" and make it a Blockbuster night.

The Hurricane (***/1/2)

Denzel Washington plays real-life 50s boxing champ Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, a basically decent black man who is unjustly imprisoned for the alleged murder of two white men in a bar. He is eventually released after a long, 30 year battle against the courts. If the plot seems famil-

iar to you, that's because it IS something you've seen before. The film scolds the evils of racial intolerance.

You have to give director Norman Jewison credit for sticking with what works: an age-old formula, which goes something like this: White man oppresses minority group/person with racial injustice.

Audience scolds injustice. Minority person struggles through the film. Magically, a benevolent white person/group aids minority person in his struggle. Audience realizes not all white are bad. White/Minority party triumphs by the movie's conclusion.



Ripley's Gwyneth Paltrow and Jude Law share a moment.

Movie-Goer's Rating System:

- ***** Brilliant, inspiring, a classic
- **** First Rate—worth your time and \$
- *** Flawed but had its moments
- ** Desperation Time
- * Someone please shoot the producer



Freddie Prinze, Jr. and Julia Stiles share a cake in Down to You.

In this film, the benevolent white party happens to be 3 kindly but flat Canadian activists who help free Carter from prison by cracking the crime case that Carter is accused and convicted of in the first place. And when I say flat I DO mean flat; I have seen cardboard cutouts with more life in them than these characters.

With Washington's inspiring portrayal of Carter's strength, it would be a shame to call this a bad movie, for it is not. BUT I cannot call it great, either. Either way, it's a good, solid film. Go see it. The theme song alone, Bob Dylan's "Hurricane," which details the entire plot, will be worth the price of admission.

Down To You (***/1/2)

Down to You is the attempt to bring the teenybopper romantic comedy genre to a higher level, but it relies entirely too much on weak dramatic devices as well as the pretty faces of its stars Freddie Prinze, Jr. and Julia Stiles. Prinze and Stiles play New York college couple Al and Imogen who eventually find they are the ones for each other, but require two heart-wrenching years apart and a pregnancy scare to discover this.

Their romance is told in flashback, with each of the leads narrating their side of the story, sometimes speaking directly to the camera. While technique may work for other films, the narration of DTY bogs down considerably and the plot all but stands still as they explain their feelings.

Now this may have been acceptable except for the fact that Al and Imogen's

relationship is irritatingly typical and not half as profound as the movie pretends it is. Down to You is substandard genre fare from both of the two leads, who have done better work in previous films.

(special thanks to Joan Fletcher, Millicent Ongaco, and Fiona Lee for their input).

Suzi's Study Abroad Adventures: The Final Chapter

By Suzi Schroeder

Staff Writer

I survived. I survived 2 days in an Austrian hospital with nothing to read but magazines in German. (Note to self: never eat Ritter Sport Jamaican Rum Raisin Hazelnut Chocolate Bars, no matter how good they are). Promptly following was a kamikaze day-trip to Budapest for Christmas Shopping (and having to listen to scoldings about traveling without being out of the Hospital for 24 hours, and comments that it's normal to travel a bit

to do good shopping, but it's not normal to travel 7 hours each way.) I survived backpacking around Europe for three weeks (next time I won't pack or shop so much). I had a marvelous Christmas in Switzerland with my host family from my exchange student days (and lugged around several kilos of chocolate in my subsequent travels). I survived new years in Geneva (no one blew up the WTO headquarters) as well as my flight to Barcelona on the 1st of January. Barcelona was a blast, even if I didn't hang out at all with

the people I came with (Note: rethink all travel plans including traveling with couples, Swiss Art students and those who try to be blasé about wherever they are going)

My exams have been taken, the presentations given, and all four research papers have been handed in. I've survived.

Now I'm attempting to pack everything up. With each item I try to squish in my suitcase I curse my shopping habits, announce loudly how I hate packing, and whine that I don't want to leave. It reminds me of a similar scene about

five months ago when I was packing up my stuff at the Mount in late August, complaining about the same things. All I need now is Jen-Jen to tell me to shush every time I complained loudly about I much I hate packing/moving/leaving.

Now I don't want to leave. I do miss my family and my friends. I miss brownies steak, and Irish Dance class. I miss Instant Messaging someone, even though they're only sitting a few computers down in the lab.

But I still want to stay. I've always

had a thing about traveling and seeing new places. I've become attached to fair Salzburg, even if they speak German (mine is horrible, but significantly better than before I came) and don't have the bustling night scenes like L.A. (or an ocean). I like drinking hot chocolate and eating apple strudel with friends in our favorite pastry shop as the snow falls outside. I'll miss impromptu snowball fights after class and shopping sprees at H&M. I like singing along to musicals while we huddle around Amy's laptop watching them on DVD, walks through the snow or going to sneak preview movie night, hoping it is not yet another British Art flick.

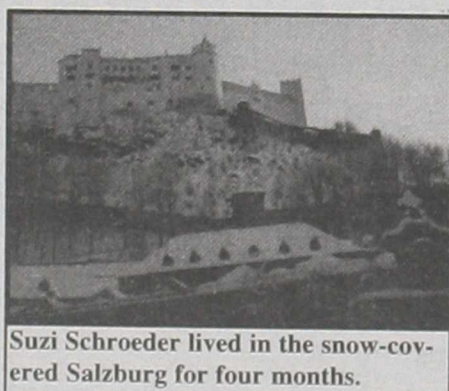
I know I have to go. My time here is done. I now have to say good bye to my

friends here and my favorite places. Good bye my river, good bye to my shops, good bye apple strudel at Cafe Shatz. Good bye O'Mallys, good-bye friends, good bye shopping sprees at H&M.

But it's not that sad. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Mount, even though I have a lot of work to catch up on. It will be nice to come back. And, of course, driving the Pixymobile, who needs new bumper stickers, (my collection has mysteriously disappeared off my car in my absence).

I wouldn't trade my semester here for anything. Even though it was a headache to get here, and I have had to make sacrifices for my semester here, it's been well worth it. I'll return. It won't be the same, but then again it never is. I'm not the same person now that I was when I left the Mount, and when I return I will not be the person I am now.

But first, I have to get all my stuff in this suitcase. Akkk, I have to clean out my closet (scary things live in there). So many things to do, so little time. It's hard to believe so much time has passed already. It has been a great adventure. I now have plenty of stories to tell my grandchildren. And you know what? Milli was right. It has been a great semester.

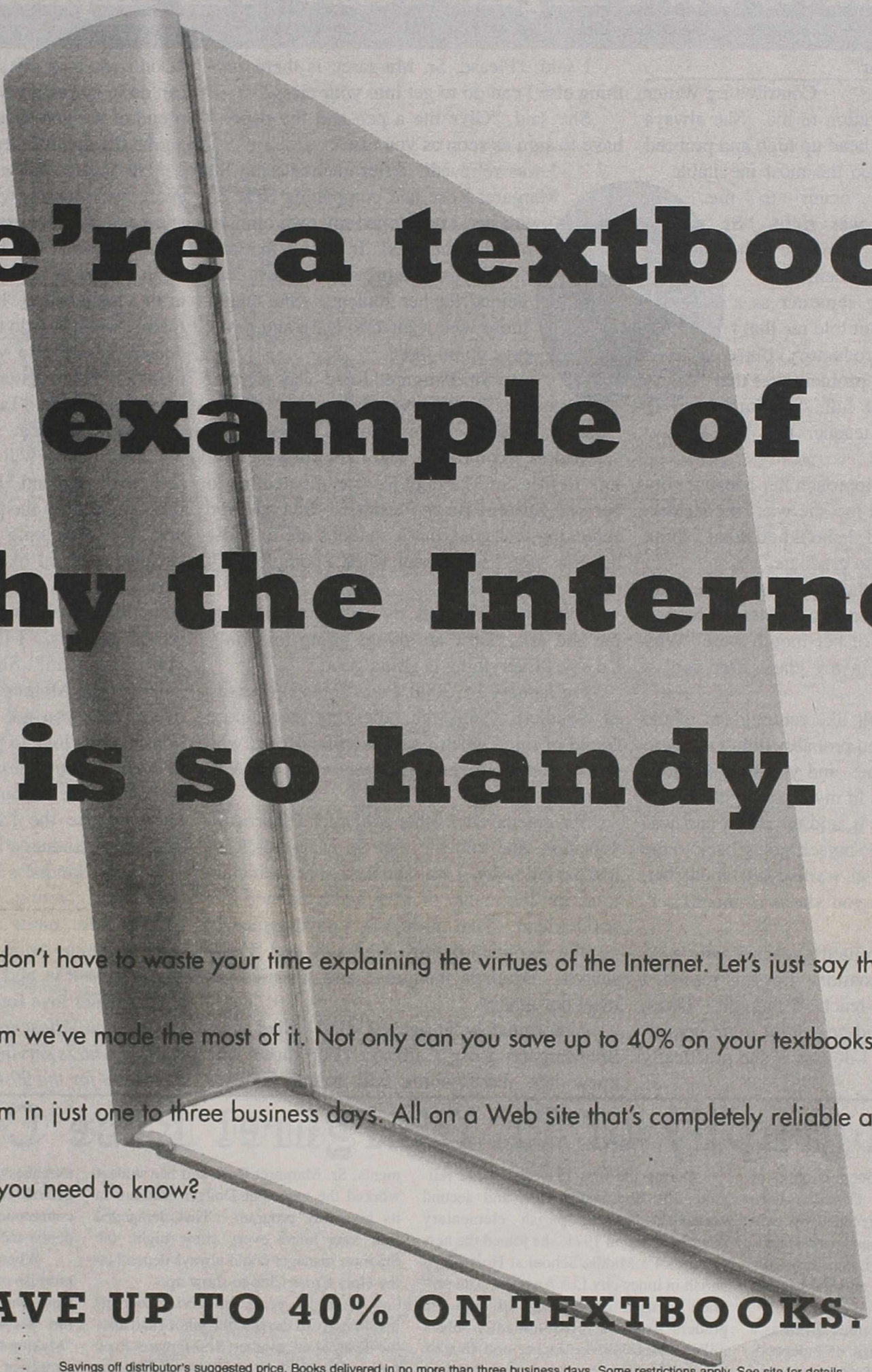


Suzi Schroeder lived in the snow-covered Salzburg for four months.



Suzi Schroeder stands at the border of Austria (symbolized by the flag to the left) and Germany (flag to the right) at the bottom of a salt mine.

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A Tribute to Sr. Margaret Rose: An Inspiration to All

By Monica Villasenor

Contributing Writer

She was an inspiration to me. She always taught me to hold my head up high and proceed through life even when the most inevitable experiences would occur to me. Bernadette Roberts was right, "Sr. Margaret Rose was someone who never gave up on her students."

During my spring semester as a freshman, my counselor told me that I was to enroll in an introductory course for speech. The only problem was that one of the classes was full. Sr. Margaret Rose was the only teacher that had a few spaces available.

I was hesitant to approach her because several students had told me she was "inconsiderate." I thought, "Well, I should do what I think is right. Plus, I need to graduate."

I approached Sr. Margaret Rose immediately and spoke to her about my problem. The first words that came out of her mouth were "Why should I accept you in my class after you've been irresponsible?"

At this point, I felt like running out of the LRC. She added, "You probably didn't speak to your counselor on time, and you figured that I would still enroll you in my class, right?"

I couldn't believe it, and the worst part was that I began to imagine myself going back to the same students that had warned me about her, reiterating, "we told you she was inconsiderate."

I had never confronted a teacher with such firmness and determination. For this reason, I didn't know how to react. I thought, "Okay, Monica, stay calm and be a little more persistent. But, how could I do this if she practically turned me down?"

I said, "Please, Sr. Margaret, is there anything else I can do to get into your class?"

She said, "Give me a pen and the paper I have to sign as soon as you can."

I was relieved! After encountering Sr. Margaret Rose and completing SPR 10 with her, I developed my own opinion of who she was. It wasn't that she was inconsiderate; she was just concerned for her students. She taught those who wanted to learn and never gave up on them.

Sr. Margaret Rose was a great person, an awesome teacher, and a unique friend. We became very good "comadres" (comrades), and I confided in her a lot. In fact, Sr. Margaret Rose motivated me to become Student Body President. She saw me achieving that goal, but it saddens me to know that she won't be present when I complete my term.

Every time I'd walk by her, she would stop me and ask, "How are things going for you?" I'd say, "Everything is going good."

On January 14, 2000, I was at the University of Southern California, speaking to a close friend of mine when I saw Jennifer Hong, who works at the Doheny campus in the I.S.A.E. program.

We greeted each other and, after a short conversation, she told me that Sr. Margaret Rose had passed away. I was shocked. I felt reluctant to accept the reality of what had happened to a good friend. That afternoon, I daydreamed of all the experiences Sr. Margaret and I had shared. Death is inevitable and we must all meet our maker.

Unfortunately, at age 63, God called upon Sr. Margaret Rose Cafferty. For those who knew her, these words will sound familiar:

"Don't you ever say sorry to a man, or, if a man can do it, so can a woman." She was extremely proud of her gender and I thank God for granting me the opportunity to meet her.

Her death was a shocking experience for everyone, which is why we should smile at one another. As each day goes by, we can't predetermine what will happen, only God can.

It's nice to smile, to wave a good-bye, to offer a hand or say "hello." You'll find a warm feeling when you do this, and even if the person doesn't respond to your kindness. It doesn't matter. What matters is that you're acknowledging someone. Take my word for it, it will make you feel great.

Some people will look at you in a weird way and others respond. If you expect something in return, it defeats the purpose of doing it. When you say something or do something, do it because you feel like doing it. If Sr. Margaret Rose were here today, she would agree with me. Actually, probably not! She would rephrase my words and say, "I'll be kind to you only if you're a woman!" She was great and she still is.

Just like Mother Teresa said, "Spread love everywhere you go: first of all, in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next-door neighbor... Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness is your face, kindness is your eyes, kindness is your smile, kindness is your warm greeting... Smile at each other, smile at your wife, smile at your husband, smile at your children, smile at each other. It doesn't matter who it is, and that will help you to grow up in greater love for each other."

Monica Villasenor is a second year Doheny student who is serving as Doheny Student Body President for the 99-00 school year.



A Biography of Sr. Margaret Rose Cafferty

Mary Louise, the youngest child of John Cafferty and Canadian-born Gertrude Savage, was preceded by twin brothers, Jim and John, and two sisters, Margaret and Patricia. Later, Jim said, "She was born on July 5, and she has had a firecracker of a life."

That metaphor rings true. Even as a child she exhibited a spirit of independence and self-assurance. So it was not too surprising when she took the unprecedented step of deciding to enter the convent after her sophomore year at St. Mary's Academy.

In her letter to the Provincial requesting to enter, she said, "I will finish my sophomore year in June, and in July I will be 16. I feel a call from God to be a religious, and I want to answer that call as a Sister of St. Joseph." So in September 1952, Mary entered the postulate. Even as a postulant her independent spirit was evident.

Her sister Pat, who was a senior at St. Mary's Academy that same year recalled one incident. She and some friends were walking in the Chapel Court when something came flying out the window and landed near Pat's feet. When she picked it up, there were two one dollar bills and a note which said, "I brought this with me, but I can't use it any more so you can have it." Both the Community and Mary weathered her postulancy. On March 18, 1953, Mary Louise received the habit and the name Sister Margaret Rose.

During the first 15 years of her religious life she taught first and second grades at several parish elementary schools. Then in 1971, she joined the new venture of a Middle School at Holy Cross parish in inner-city Los Angeles. The program focused on helping 7th and 8th graders from a predominantly black milieu. Specialized teacher and flexible scheduling were geared toward developing curiosity, creativity and independence in the students. Besides providing academic development, the program fostered the spiritual, emotional, physical and social growth of the early adolescent.

Sr. Margaret Rose's expertise in the field of language arts and her inherent love for the disadvantaged combined when she initiated a Speech Club. She taught the team members not only the basic skills of effective speaking but instilled in each student an unshakable self-confidence. One key to her success was that she saw class as individuals; students felt her personal interest in them.

Sr. Margaret Rose was very tough on them, very demanding, but each student knew she wanted success for him or her, and was not just trying to push the group to the top. But the top was the place her Speech Club always landed in tournaments. Because it consistently won, some of the other coaches tried to force Sr. Margaret Rose's club into another region. In order to get money for fees and for transportation to the different tourna-

ments, Sr. Margaret Rose and her student worked the games at Dodger Stadium in its giveaway program. That demanded four long hours every game night; the Stadium manager could always depend on the Holy Cross Club to show up.

After 14 years of giving herself unstintingly to the Middle School and after the death of her mother, Sr. Margaret Rose took a sabbatical. Again the maverick, she did not use the year for her own leisure but chose to go to Sr. Kathleen Clark's Home for Abused Children in Tucson. Perhaps she felt that extending herself to the hurting little ones would help heal her own sadness and exhaustion.

That year also gave her more contemplative time. She valued solitude. Often she would go to her family's cabin in Crestline on the long weekends. She loved the outdoors and enjoyed fishing. A great sports enthusiast, she watched golf, football, college basketball and tennis. She always rooted for the underdog except when the Green Bay Packers and the Raiders were playing. Even then she hoped the other teams would get some points.

When Sr. Margaret Rose returned from her year in Tucson in 1986 with renewed vigor, she once again ministered to the needy as teacher of basic English to incoming college freshmen at the Doheny campus. Coming from inner-city schools, many students lacked basic writing skills. With Sr. Margaret Rose's encouragement,

toughness and love, the young women gained self-confidence, improved their communication skills, and went on to academic success.

When summer vacation came with its promise of R&R for teachers, Sr. Margaret Rose went back to Holy Cross to help with the six-week summer school called "Making the Right Connections." With its variety of activities and field trips, it kept the young off the streets and gave them alternative to the neighborhood's drugs, gangs and violence. Sr. Margaret Rose helped with that program for 10 summers.

With such a full life with strangers' children, Sr. Margaret Rose still had time to spend many happy hours with her family. She especially loved her nieces and nephews. Her sister Pat tells of one occasion when her home was filled with guests for a bridal shower. Grown-ups and little ones were standing around when one niece came running in and yelled, "Come on, you guys. Come upstairs. Aunt Mary is going to show us how to make bubbles with soap."

With such a love for fun, for life, for helping the young make their way in life with confidence, Sr. Margaret Rose's answering of God's sudden call to anew life has left us stunned and saddened.

Should we have expected it? —Her final deviation from the ordinary pattern! Enjoy your rest, Margaret Rose. You deserve it.

By Sr. Constance Fitzgerald

The Oracle

MOUNT ST. MARY'S
ARCHIVES

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Students Seek Solutions to Parking Problems

By Julie Ahn

Staff Writer

Every day, frustrated Mount students fuss and complain about a shortage on campus, as they wander around, searching for what is not there. Emotions are stirred, blood boils, and the requisite moans and groans are heard across campus. What is this passionate issue that's making women scream? Why, parking, of course.

With the expanding student population, with a growing number of commuters and residents with cars, the once merely vexatious problem of the inadequacy of parking available is becoming a serious dilemma. Soon the student maxim to be laughed about will no longer be "my dog ate my homework," but "there was no parking in the lot." But, students at the Mount are not laughing. The ratio of parking spaces available to students draws a

there is a deficiency between the number of students who pay for parking and the number of spaces available.

Third year student Jessica Rojas voices this complaint, stating, "You're not guaranteed a parking space even if you pay for parking.... They're just collecting money."

Vice President of Administration and Finance, Hyrum Hall is surprisingly candid as he agrees with this comment, calling it a "true statement." Hall acknowledges that the Mount "oversells parking by more than 30%." However, to be fair, most UC campuses oversell by, or slightly above the 30% mark as well.

Hall explains that with the Mount, more parking is oversold than average because the Mount's parking permit cost is quite low at \$99. "A tradeoff must be made in which we charge less and sell more, or charge more and sell less," Hall explains. But, he expresses empathy for the problem and provides strong reassurance that the parking committee is actively working on methods to improve the situation.

As the parking shortage plucks students' nerves, they plead for something, anything, to be done to provide more parking.

Third year student Nancy Garcia suggests adding another parking lot somewhere on campus. "Another lot has to be built. I mean, each semester, a bigger freshman class is added... The population is growing and so should the services of the school."

While an additional lot would be the ideal solution to the problem, Hall does not see this as a viable option, if only because of the difficulty in getting the per-

mit to build it.

"There is virtually no chance to build another lot because we need approval from the city for the construction...and the last request for construction was extremely difficult to get." Hall also adds that the sentiment of the neighbors who have some complaints about the Mount would also make it more difficult to receive permission for construction.

Hall offers a possible alternative, proposing that an off-campus site may be built or utilized to provide parking for students and, from there, a shuttle to take them to the Mount campus. Hall did not want to speculate as to whether or not he thought parking costs would increase for this service. Though the parking committee is looking for sites around the neighborhood, the search has proven to be disappointing. They have not found anything suitable for such a site.

Fourth year student Graciela Munez recommends separating the commuter parking spaces from those of the residents. "Some residents just park their cars three or four straight days in the main parking lot, while commuters struggle to find one spot for a couple of hours... How fair is that," she challenges.

According to Hall, not fair at all, but the drawback to such an endeavor? It all goes back to money, as commuters and residents "must be willing to pay two separate rates... You have to control for it somehow," replies Hall.

Indeed, there is a definite problem with parking, but the answers are not clear as of yet. The encouraging note is that there is a parking committee actively attempting to reconcile the parking dilemma, and Hall optimistically estimates that



Parking on campus grows to be more of a hassle each year. Students look for alternatives and for solutions.



Prices of parking permits are destined to increase as the Mount expands and finds alternatives to the parking crunch.

massive shortage for a service that many believe should be adequately provided for, considering the expense of tuition.

The largest and most evident problem with parking is that there is simply not enough of it. Because there is no limit to the number of parking permits offered,

changes may appear sometime in the Spring of 2001.

Knowing increased parking facilities inevitably means increased parking rates, many students backtracked. When asked if they would be willing to pay more for a guaranteed parking spot, many suddenly expressed beliefs that parking was not such a large problem after all.

"I wouldn't say money equals time... To me, 30 minutes of looking for parking in the first month of school is much cheaper than paying 30 or even 20 dollars more," third year student Judy Lee succinctly put it.

Improvements in the parking situation will ultimately be hard to come by until Mount students are willing to put their money where their mouths are.

Mount Clubs Celebrate Culture

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

What do you contribute to Mount Saint Mary's College? Recently, the African-American Council of Women (AACW) at Chalon and The Black Student Union (BSU) from Doheny contributed to their heritage. AACW along with ASB, put on a Past To Present show of African-American History.

The show was packed with information, including The National Black Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Maria Lyons was the hostess. There was also a guest speaker from UCLA, videos, briefing about the recited history poems, and songs like, "Wade In The Water," an old slavery spiritual.

Power 106 was there to represent. They gave away prizes and played during intermission. There was also a dance contest and partici-

pants received Power 106 gear and phone cards. This was a great event with a wonderful audience and equally wonderful performers and speakers.

The BSU presented a talent show with Maria Lyons, again, as hostess. It featured singers, dancers, poetry recitals, and a skit. Tiffany Smith sang the National Black Anthem and a song by Mariah Carey. A junior high student performed a beautiful spiritual dance. Everyone that graced the stage showed tremendous talents. But, the winners were:

•1st place—Majestic Voices—a singing group of four sisters with a gospel song

•2nd place—Group of three Mount Saint Mary's girls with a trilogy of three different styles and four songs by Micheal Jackson

•3rd place—The "Heartbreakers" with a comical and entertaining version of Mariah Carey's song and

video.

Overall, it was a successful production with many in attendance. If you would like more information on how to join AACW or BSU, please see the club activity boards for more information.

Ready to get involved and learn more about other cultures? Get ready to have some fun with Panghat Pilipino (FASA) with song and dance at the Filipino Expo this Wednesday from 5pm-7pm in the circe (or the Little Theater if it rains). There will also be great food: Lumpia, Pancit, BBQ and rice. Come celebrate tradition with dancing, singing, and raffles. Don't forget to bring your family and friends. Admission is free!

Also coming up on March 31st is the first annual Lu'au with Na Pua Oka' Aina. Get ready for great food, fun, and dance. Bring everyone and enjoy!

Around the World

•America's Czech-born secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, will return to her homeland next week, where there is talk she might seek the presidency after finishing her current term.

•A warning was recently released by the Pentagon, alerting US military facilities around the world of defects in thousands of protective suits meant to shield GIs from gas and germ attacks.

According to the Los Angeles Times, the Pentagon has known about this problem for five years now, but did not deem it important enough to send out an alert. The decision to inform facilities came in light of recent military

activity in Bosnia.

•Cuban Diplomat Jose Imperatori, the Vice Consul at the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, was detained and forcibly expelled from the country Saturday after being charged of spying. He was ordered out of the country, but did not leave by the designated time. Instead, he resigned from his post Friday and expressed a desire to clear his name.

"He has been expelled from the United States for not voluntarily departing by the appointed time," State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said in a prepared statement.

—Taken from the LA Times (www.latimes.com).

Inside:

Check out a Mount students perspective on Leadership and recent Oracle articles.

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It's raining men, at the Mount? Find out who they are and why they chose the Mount.

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Mount students say farewell to the "email guy." Find out more about his departure.

Mount Culture, Page 6

As Lent is fast approaching, many are preparing to celebrate... it's Mardi Gras!

Final Word, Page 8

Are the Grammys fair?

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

Why was that person nominated, many asked? Who was not nominated? And why weren't they nominated? They are great artists that deserve recognition! These are the questions and statements that many have had about this year's Grammy Awards.

I personally objected at the fact that Jennifer Lopez did not get nominated. I am sure that many people wanted to know why others weren't nominated also.

I am sure that others had questions like why Macy Grey, although a great artist with great videos for MTV, was nominated over their favorite artist, who may have had more exposure and popularity.

Well it just all comes down to varying opinions in music by the board that chose them. Of course you still do not have to agree, but here is the scoop anyway.

The 42nd Annual Grammy Awards took place on February 23rd at 8 p.m. on CBS at the recently opened Staples Center. Many excellent performers took the stage, which included Whitney Houston, Faith Hill, Britney Spears, Kid Rock, Ricky Martin, TLC, Backstreet Boys, the Dixie Chicks, and even a taste of Santana. Christina Aguilera, Mary J. Blige, Neil Diamond, Gloria Estefan, Vince Gill, and Jennifer Lopez.

There were some extraordinary outfits, like the combinations worn by Britney Spears and the typical eye-catching ensembles sported by TLC. But, the dress worn by Jennifer Lopez was the talk of this town and no doubt of many others.

The purpose, I believe, was to divert attention away from the relations between her and Puff Daddy. If this was, indeed, her goal, she certainly accomplished it. You go girl! Flaunt it and be beautiful. Do not let other women's jealous habits sway you. But next time, try not to scare people with the possibly of your cleavage being revealed.



Regardless of who we wanted to see nominated, someone still has to win, so here are some of the more outstanding winners.

The Dixie Chicks were up for several awards, including Album of the Year, Wide Open Spaces, Best Country Album, Best Country Performance By a Duo or Group With Vocals, and the Best Country Collaboration With Vocals. Whitney Houston was nominated for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance, Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals, Best R&B Song, and Best Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals. And, of course, the gifted singer who won over Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera. Yea!

And at least we had lots of laughs during the three-hour broadcast with Rosie O'Donnell as the host. I cannot wait until next year's over-blown production.

CA Propositions: Your Voter's Guide

By Joan Fletcher

Editor

On March 7, 2000, many voters will head to the polls, totally unprepared. Many will make split-second decisions based on what they read on the ballot. Not only is this an uneducated and uninformed way to vote, but it defeats the entire purpose of voting!

Taking this into consideration, The Oracle has compiled information on some of the most important propositions. For more information, please visit www.calvoter.org. There you can find an online version of the California Voter Guide.

•1A: Gambling on Tribal Lands

Change the State Constitution to allow Indian tribes to conduct casino-style gambling, like slot machines. Some of the income from this business would be shared with tribes who do not conduct gambling.

•12: Bonds for the Environment and Parks

•13: Bonds to Improve Water Supply

•14: Bonds for Library Buildings

•15: Bonds for Crime Labs

•16: Bonds for Veteran's Homes

•17: Making Raffles Legal

Change the State Constitution to allow non-profit groups to use raffles as a legal way to raise money. Prop 17 says that at least 90% of the money raised will go to the charity. Also, the person conducting the raffle has to work for the charity. The state legislature will have to pass a law for Prop 17 to go into effect.

•18: Murder Sentences

Make it a "special circumstance" if a murderer waits for the victim in one place and then takes the victim to another place to be murdered.

•19: Murder of Peace Officers

Make it a longer sentence for second degree murder of peace officers working for BART (the Bay Area Rapid Transit district) and California State University (CSU).

•20: Use of Lottery Money

Change the way that a portion of lottery money is given to public education. One half of the increase in lottery funds over the current level would go to teaching materials like textbooks.

21: Juvenile Crime

Make several changes to the treatment of juvenile offenders, making more eligible to be tried in adult courts. It also increases penalties for gang-related crimes.

22: Limit on Marriages

Make only marriages between a man and a woman valid in California, no matter where the marriage took place.

23: "None of the Above" on the Ballot

25: Limits on Campaign Contributions and Spending

26: How School Bonds Get Approved

27: Voluntary Term Limits for Congress
Allows California candidates for Congress to declare whether they agree to limit the number of terms they will serve.

28: Repeal of Prop 10

Get rid of the tobacco tax passed by Prop 10. This would also end the early childhood programs paid for by this tax.

29: Indian Gambling Agreement

Allow the type of gambling set up in 1998 "Pala Compacts" to go into effect. However, if Prop 1A passes, then the "Pala Compacts" would be overruled by later agreements about gambling on Indian lands.

30: Insurance Lawsuits

31: Amendment to Prop 30

THE ORACLE

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Letters to the Editor

Student Perturbed Over Perceived Negativity

Dear Editor,

As a student of Mount Saint Mary's College and a reader of The Oracle, I propose that you and your staff begin to make an effort to give our student newspaper a more positive tone. After reading the February 11, 2000 publication, I was overcome with feelings of frustration. I am a very happy Mount community member and believe that The Oracle should be the voice of contented students, as well as the unsatisfied students.

The Oracle is written, edited, and produced primarily by Mount students and read by a large percentage of the Mount community. Therefore, I see it as a tool that helps to set the tone of our environment.

In my experience, MSMC student life is primarily positive. I consider myself an average undergraduate resident student who loves Mount Saint Mary's College. I do not wish to be constantly infected with negative views of others, while I read a publication created to represent the entire Mount community.

While reading the latest edition of The Oracle, I was filled with negative images of my surroundings. Criticisms of "winter improvements," a derogatory view of the recent hazing workshop, and an uneducated editorial regarding MSMC student leadership opportunities were the selections that captured my attention. As I continued reading, I observed that these three features were the only ones included that directly addressed life as a Mount student. These negatively addressed subjects are on the contrary, ones that I feel are some positive aspects of our environment.

One aspect that should have been presented in a more positive manner is the remodeling that occurred on the Chalon campus over the Winter Break. The retiling and repainting of the Brady Patio was needed to improve the aesthetic appeal as well as the safety of students, faculty, staff, and guests. This construction has benefited all students and visitors who pass through, eat on, smoke on, or simply enjoy the view from the Brady Patio.

Another topic that was inappropriately presented in the last Oracle publication is leadership at MSMC.

As a student worker for the Women's Leadership Program and a minor in Leadership and Women's Studies, I do not agree with the editorial about the "lack of true leadership opportunities we have at the Mount." The Women's Leadership Program focuses on providing Mount students with opportunities to build and practice their leadership skills through conferences, the Portfolio Program, internships, and a resource library. This program is designed for anyone seeking leadership opportunities beyond, or including, official leadership positions.

The final subject that was recently attacked in our student paper is the Anti-Hazing Workshop. As Historian of Theta Alpha Sigma, I attended the workshop. I do not agree with the comment that the workshop "failed in its objectives to teach Mount organizations about hazing." The Mount's definition of hazing was presented (see MSMC Student Handbook, page 19). Some examples of hazing were also given: from forced alcohol consumption to timed scavenger hunts. The information the presented and the discussion were valuable to me as a student, a pledge, and an officer of a sorority.

The Oracle negatively distorted these three subjects of student life at Mount Saint Mary's College. As an Oracle reader and MSMC community member, I would like to have the more positive perspectives of Mount life represented in a "publication created by the students of MSMC."

Sincerely,

Natalie Y. Priester

Dear Natalie,

The Oracle apologizes for any negative tones of stories. However, it is not our job to paint a perfect picture of the college. Every college has its share of problems. Our newspaper is an open forum to discuss those problems. Our college, luckily, has fewer problems than others. If you would like to share positive aspects of the Mount, your articles will be greatly appreciated. In regards to the article about leadership at the Mount, it was not targeted at our fine Leadership Program, but at the lack of opportunities for student leadership through clubs. The writer was expressing disdain at the suppression of our leaders as they tried to use their leadership skills on campus.

Joan Fletcher,
Editor

Suzi's World: The Disappearance of "My" Mount

By Suzi Schroeder

Staff Writer

I am happy to be back at the Mount. As much as I loved studying abroad, it is nice to be back. However, I have noticed a lot of changes in my absence. Some of these things had already started changing before I left; I just never really noticed until now. I'm not talking about the redecorated patio or the remodeled bathrooms or even the cafeteria food. I'm referring to things that are far more important.

I came to the Mount for many reasons, reasons that I share with my fellow students. Mostly, I came here because it was right for me. There was something special about it, a certain little something that made it different from all the other schools. That something sparked my interest and inspired me to leave the safety of my hometown and move to L.A. rather than pursuing an education at the much closer Arizona State.

However, as time wears on, I find that something that made me fall in love with the Mount more elusive. True, I am no longer the high school senior who ditched a day of class to make a whirlwind college tour on her own. I have become a different person through my travels and experiences.

I still love the Mount (otherwise I would of stayed in Austria—believe me, I was tempted), but I feel that I am not the only one who has changed. Perhaps,

because of my absence it is more pronounced, but I feel that the Mount has changed too, and I'm not sure if I like some of these changes. It seems to me that some of the things that I came here for, the things that make the Mount special, that make it "my" Mount, are changing or disappearing.

When I had my tour I vividly remember how the Mount seemed to pride itself on always being able to get you into your desired classes. No closed classes here. As the time wears on, I have more and more trouble getting the classes I need.

I have also noticed a definite shift in missions of the college. It seems to me that the Mount is suffering a bit of an identity crisis. It seems like it wants to be the Mount, the way the Mount was meant to be, while at the same time becoming bigger and better. But can a bigger, better Mount still be "my" Mount?

Don't get me wrong; I am all for change and improvement, especially if it offers the students more services, benefits and classes, but there must be a way to make these "improvements" without sacrificing the integrity of the institution we all love.

Just recently, I got caught up in what I feel was a "war" between these conflicting missions. With the growth of the college there are bound to be changes and sacrifices, but the question is where the line will be drawn.

The particular "battle" I was caught in was one that may seem familiar. Do we

keep the classes small and have students risk not getting the classes they need, or do we pack the students in at the expense of their educations?

Small classes and availability have both been selling points here at the Mount. As we grow, these either may disappear or one may have to be sacrificed for another.

Space, dorm rooms, offices, classrooms and parking spaces all seem to be at a premium. Can dorms still be guaranteed if we keep growing the way we do? To me, dorm life in one of my favorite things here at the Mount. I wouldn't want to sacrifice that to a limit of space.

Another problem I face daily is in finding an available parking space (or at least one that the "Pixy-Mobile" can fit in). In addition to this problem, several of my classes were shifted around in date and time because of space constraints.

It seems to me that choices will have to be made. We can't grow and not expand. But do we have to grow? Perhaps I'm selfish. I like going to a small school where I know everyone. If I wanted to go to a huge, impersonal university I would not have chosen the Mount. This semester, I found myself in a class where, on my first day, I knew not a single person in the room. Not one.

I don't know how long I can see "my" Mount be pulled in two directions. Trying to grow in numbers without adding more space is hurting us, the students. We came here out of choice, because we loved the environment. I have only been here a

few years but the environment is changing. It no longer seems to be the place it was when I came here. It's not just the food rule in the cafeteria, the recent dorm situation or even the closing of classes. It's also a feeling on campus.

My professors are as great as ever. I don't mind having more students around, but I do mind not getting classes I need, seeing students having to dorm at another university, and essentially seeing our small supply of resources being stretched to the limit to accommodate more students.

Perhaps we, the students, should stop bickering about the cafeteria food and become united. We need to take a stand to protect what we love. As a student population, we focus entirely too much on our differences instead of our similarities.

We all chose this school. We chose it because we love it to one degree or another. If we concentrate our efforts and work together, perhaps we can preserve "our" Mount for future students. Perhaps we can get back what we have already lost.

I don't truly mind a bigger Mount, as long as it's "my" Mount, with all the things I came here for. I will stay. There will always be a space in my heart for the Mount. But I'd hate for it to become a shadow of its former self.

I cannot stop the winds of change from blowing across campus. Sometimes it brings needed improvements to the campus, but I wish that they would bring back "my" Mount so that others can love it the way it was meant to be.

Why oh Why "American Pie" Madonna?

By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer

Last week I overheard a conversation between two girls on campus. It began like this:

"Did you hear the new Madonna song?"

"No, what's it called?"

"'American Pie!' It is awesome!"

"I'm so glad she is writing new songs again, especially after being a mom!"

End of conversation.

First of all, I will just let the comment about being a mom slide. Did you not forget about "Ray of Light" which she recorded and released AFTER giving birth to baby Lourdes?

The thing that made me angry about this conversation was the fact that the girl thought Madonna's song "American Pie" was HER song. It is most certainly not. An amazing singer/songwriter named Don McLean released that song almost 30 years ago!

I can understand the girls having no idea who McLean is or that he sang a song called "American Pie" which, incidentally, is one of the most recognized songs of all time. But to give Madonna so much credit for a song that she put no effort into made me irate!

I've been listening to the Top 40 radio stations so I could hear how they are introducing the song and what listener's reactions were. No wonder the girls didn't know that Madonna was doing a cover song! Radio stations are making it sound like Madonna wrote this masterpiece.

Despite the fact that she leaves out whole verses and can't hit the notes that are need in the song, Madonna puts a spacey twist to it. It's terrible! The song sounds like a children's song in a nightmare of synthesizers and bad back-up vocals.

I think Madonna could've done a lot better with this song. She should've gone acoustic and let the song rely on the beautiful writing and chords, not techno riffs and drum beats.

I should back up. I adore Madonna. There is no question about that. However, as a fan, I am allowed to dislike songs. This particular song is my least favorite Madonna song to date.

Cover songs are a part of music now, but some artists don't pull it off as well as others. Whether or not the cover version is any good, the music-loving

public embraces cover songs because we all recognize the music and the lyrics. I love a good cover song, but it takes a lot to please me.

Limp Bizkit broke through with their take on George Michael's "Faith." What a brilliant idea! The cheesy bum-shaking lyrics and music of the George Michael hit fused with hard guitars, heavy bass, and the not-so-perfect vocals of Limp Bizkit lead singer Fred Durst.

When America's favorite Australian ex-soap star waif Natalie Imbruglia did a cover of the Ednaswap song "Torn," it was a huge hit for her. However, Ednaswap and their incredible music are still not on the map.

The incomparable Stevie Wonder originally performed "Lately" which was also done by sexy and smooth Jodeci.

The pseudo-industrial/goth rock band Orgy popped onto the scene with their version of the classic New Order new wave hit "Blue Monday." That one cover song put them on every radio station in America and Europe, not to mention on MTV with the likes of Britney, boy bands, and Ricky.

Cake's cover of Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" was a sleeper hit, but still worthy as it was a completely different take on the glittery disco original.

Most music fans don't know that the sexy early '90s En Vogue hit "Giving Him Something He Can Feel" was originally done by the queen diva herself, Aretha Franklin.

Nirvana gave credit where credit was due to David Bowie when they performed "Man Who Stole the World" on MTV's Unplugged in the early '90s.

Eighties existential rockers Devo covered The Rolling Stone's "Satisfaction."

One of my favorite covers is by Tori Amos. After Nirvana singer Kurt Cobain committed suicide, she started singing a version of McLean's "American Pie" as an intro to the huge Nirvana hit, "Smells Like Teen Spirit." The song was sung as an ode to the passing of a great musician (Cobain) who shaped "alternative" music in the 20th century.

Cover songs, such as Amos', that have meaning and depth are so much more beautiful than a superficial studio cover of a classic. I cringe when I hear Madonna's new version of "American Pie." I am hoping it won't do well on the charts so we don't have to be subjected to any more radio or video airplay.

Editorial: Mount Shuttle Services

Being a Liberal Studies major with many night classes at Doheny, I came to appreciate the shuttle service provided by the Mount early on. I was very grateful that the college provided this vital service to allow those who don't have cars or who don't want to face the rush hour commutes all alone to take an alternative means of transportation, free of charge.

However, the semester I started using the shuttles, I heard many rumors about unreliability. Students told horror stories of late shuttles causing them to miss class, shuttles who departed too early and left last-minute riders behind, and shuttles that never bothered to appear.

I have to admit, I was a bit afraid of being left behind. Can you imagine, a young student left at the "other campus," where she knew of nothing but the cafeteria and her classroom. This is the depth of knowledge most Chalon and Doheny students have about the "other campus."

Riding the shuttle that first semester, I noticed that some drivers were better than others and that the aforementioned "chronic" problems did not happen much. Lucky for us, our shuttle service keeps improving each semester. Now, I am pretty confident in saying I trust the drivers, as I put my life in their capable hands each week. These are truly good drivers, some better than myself, though I do have to admit we have had our share of scary ones in the past!

This semester, I have to congratulate the shuttle drivers for a job well done. They do everything they can to make our commute a little more comfortable. In addition, they drive through bad traffic all day without uttering even the smallest complaint. And, half the time, most of the shuttle riders don't even bother to thank them! I have even seen drivers go back to pick up students who have missed the last shuttle from Doheny to Chalon late at night because they don't want to see the student stranded. This is after a hard day at work. They probably wanted nothing more than to go home and relax, but they helped her anyway.

Knowing that we often focus on the negative aspects of our lives and do not always take the time to notice and praise what is right about our college, I think we should unofficially designate this week the Shuttle Driver Appreciation Week, just to show them we really do appreciate their efforts.

So, each time you get on that shuttle, or even just pass it on your way to class or work, smile and wave to the driver. Tell them what a great job they've been doing and how much you value their assistance. Drop a little note on their seat when they're not there, saying how much you appreciate them. Believe me, a little encouragement, even in the smallest form, goes a long way.

—Joan Fletcher, Editor

What interested/motivated you to attend MSMC?

- The strong physical therapy program. --Paul Dawson
- I heard that this school had a very good physical therapy program. —Bernardo Soriano
- The PT school's reputation, location, PT professors. —Joseph Villena
- What interested me to come to MSMC was the physical therapy program and the fact it was in Los Angeles, CA. I had no idea what I was getting myself into. —David Waddle

Normally, women are discriminated against because they are the minority. Do you feel the roles have been switched?

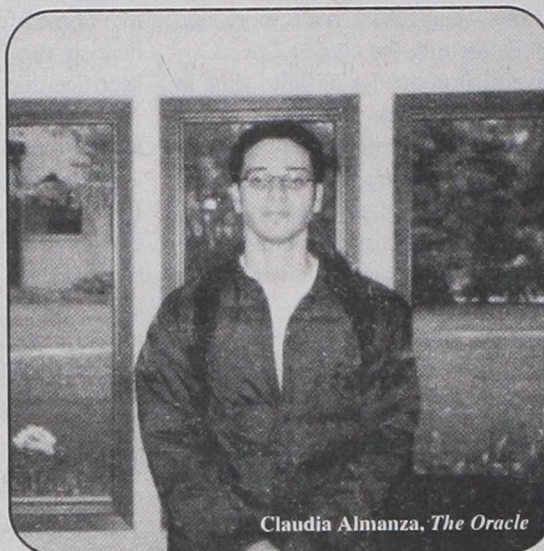
- I believe discrimination is a result of unequal power distribution between parties and I think MSMC does not create or condone such an environment. —Paul Dawson
- I don't feel that I'm discriminated just because I'm a minority. People treat me rather well. —Bernardo Soriano
- Other than the fact that the fitness center doesn't have enough heavier free weights, I don't really feel discriminated here. —Joseph Villena
- For the most part I do not feel discriminated, primarily because men make up half of my classes. However, last year during undergrad classes I did feel a bit of tension. —David Waddle

What is it like to be a man in a primarily all women's college?

- I'm not really affected by it, but I do find the atmosphere a little more amicable. —Paul Dawson
- At first, it felt weird, but I got used to it pretty fast. Plus, I'm in class for most of the day so it doesn't affect me as much. —Bernardo Soriano
- The only time I saw a real difference was when I was taking undergrad classes that put me as the only guy in a class of girls. The response I usually got was "is he lost." But after the initial shock, most were really nice to me. —David Waddle
- At first it felt weird, but I got used to it after a while. So right now, it feels just like a regular campus. —Joseph Villena

Would or have you dated girls on campus? Why or why not?

- NO. I have enough trouble concentrating as it is...and I'm not worthy to date an ethereal Athenian. —Paul Dawson
- I never really thought about it. School keeps me pretty busy. This school seems pretty small and that has the potential of having a lot of people know your personal business. —Bernardo Soriano
- I might if I found someone interesting to date, but right now I don't have any time. Being in class for about 15 or so hours per day makes it a "little" bit hard to mingle around and get to know people. —Joseph Villena
- Dating the girls on campus would be no problem, however due to the intense curriculum, who has time to date or even sleep. —David Waddle



Jon Roberts, a Doheny PTA student, smiles for the camera.

**What do you like best at MSMC?**

- The excellent learning environment and the strong teaching staff. —Paul Dawson
- The PT program is really good. The school is small so I can't get lost and everybody, including the staff are really personable. —Bernardo Soriano
- It is a beautiful campus located in a very nice place. It has a very serene atmosphere, which is really cool. —Joseph Villena
- I like the one on one atmosphere here. You are not just a nobody or part of the general population. This allows the teachers to really get what they are teaching across. —David Waddle

How did you feel when you were approached by the men of the Mount?

- I felt honored. —Paul Dawson
- I thought it was cool. It sounded like a good idea. —Joseph Villena
- It did not bother me. —David Waddle
- I was caught off guard a little, maybe a little embarrassed. I didn't want to make

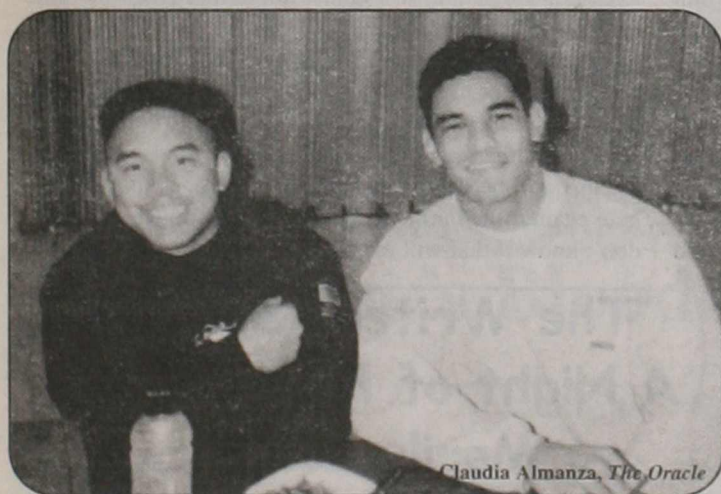
Getting to The Men at

When I first applied to the Mount, I assumed there would be no men on this campus. However, when I got there on both Chalon and I found a great number of men. I was put into one of the special classes exclusively for women. When a man on an all-women's campus is it an easy way to find the search of answers to some of the Oracle's Special Features. Claudia Almanza, went to the Men of the Mount to get their opinions and answers to some intriguing questions.

to Know...

at the Mount

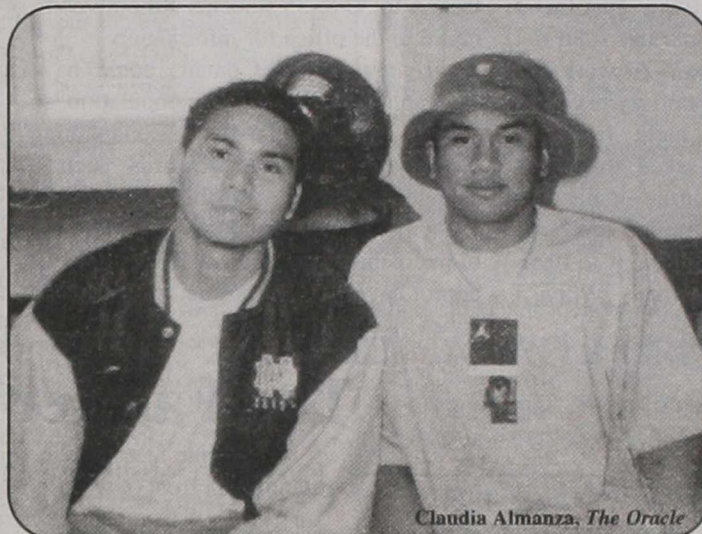
When applied to the assumed there would be in this "all-women's" campus, sprinkled here and there, and Chalon and Doheny can be a mix of male students admitted through special programs that allow them to attend a college originally meant to be for women. What is it like to be a man on campus? Is it awkward or easy to find a quick date? In this section, some of these questions, Special Features Editor, went in search of the answers at the Mount to find their answers to these questions.



Paul Dawson and Joey Villena, both Chalon PT students, pose for a picture.

Being a man on an all women's campus, do you feel you are under-represented in most issues?

- Although I would like to be more involved in student body issues, I'm currently very focused on my studies, so I'm not able to comment on this question. —Paul Dawson
- I am not really involved with school activities. This is a mostly all girl college, so I do think that naturally, men are going to be under-represented in some issues, but so far I've had no problems. —Bernardo Soriano
- I don't know. I don't really know what else is going on on campus. —Joseph Villena
- Of course this would be true, but due to the total male population verses the women's population the issues do we have other than the showers and weight room at the gym is definitely bias in presentation. —David Waddle



Neil Jabonero and Neil Prado spare a moment to take a picture together before class.

Is there anything you would like to see changed?

- I can't think of anything right now. —Bernardo Soriano
- A change in the menu downstairs other than deli sandwiches and soup, heavier free weights, and basketballs with air in them. —Joseph Villena
- The mens showers. Maybe add some hot water and a bench to change on outside of the shower. And maybe some guy magazines in the library. —David Waddle

Do you feel you must be liberal man to attend this college?

- No, at MSMC you don't have to be anything you don't want to be, besides being a liberal isn't a bad thing anyway. —Paul Dawson
- I don't think so. I came here to get a good education and that's pretty much it. —Bernardo Soriano
- Nahh! If you just chill out you'll be fine. —Joseph Villena
- No—to attend the college. Yes—at some of the presentations. —David Waddle

How do you feel about feminist issues?

- I'm okay with it as long as a person can support what they are saying and if I don't like it, I can always pretend to listen. —Paul Dawson
- I think women and men are equal and should be treated as such. —Bernardo Soriano
- I'm open to hear what people have to say. I'm not partial to one side or the other. I just listen to people's ideas. —Joseph Villena
- I support most, except the ones that just blame all men for everything. —David Waddle

ed for this feature?

want to make a big deal out of this. —Bernardo Soriano

The Mount Bids Goodbye to Mike Lee, Internship Coordinator

By Claudia Almanza

Special Features Editor

You might be asking yourself, "who is the 'email guy'?" You may not know him by his name, but I know for a fact that you have read all of his emails on available internships. His name is Mike Lee and I am saddened to inform you all that his presence will no longer be seen at the Mount. His last day was on Friday, February 18, 2000.

A semester ago, I did not know or care to know who Mike Lee was. As I transferred to Chalon from Doheny, I started receiving emails on internships of various sorts, but I did not know who they were from. At work one day, I heard an administrator say his name and I remembered the name from the emails. I proceeded and asked him if this was the guy sending all of the emails concerning internships. He smiled and confessed to the deed. I was so happy to finally put a face to the email. When I



approached him about doing a "Farewell Tribute," he was surprised and pleased.

Prior to getting to know Lee, I assumed he had been working for the Mount for years. His special "interactive" relationship, both on and off the world-wide web, with people astounded me.

People knew who he was—students, administrators, staff or faculty—everyone and anyone had either seen, heard, or actually talked to Lee. So to my surprise, Lee had only been a part of the Mount Community for a year and a half.

"No one knew who I was, so emailing and responding was a huge risk that turned the Internship Program around. It changed from 5 to 30 to 35 students a month coming in to the office for information."

I never thought emails could have such an impact on an entire population, so I asked if he thought there was anything else that contributed towards such a change? Thinking about his response, he exclaimed, "More students are interested in internships. Being a smaller school, we do not have much exposure, making extra

motivation the key element."

Seeing the gleam in his eyes, I proceeded to ask if there was a memory that stood out in his mind. His response only contained two words: the students. I could see the joy the student body brought to him.

Due to human nature, if we are appreciated and enjoy working in a certain place, we generally tend to stay there. And so, I racked my brain wondering what opportunities had been offered to him that would cause him to leave. My curiosity got the best of me, so I asked him.

"I will be Assistant Director at Claremont Graduate University. Building programs with a user-friendly atmosphere at the Career Center is my main focus. It will be more demanding because there is not a lot of structure, so I will be creating structure while it growing at the same time."

It will be quite a change having someone else take over Mr. Lee's position. Having this in mind, I asked him what programs or policies he would like to see continue? Emailing on a weekly basis and

continuation of the Internship Program are what I would love to see continue. I knew the interview was coming to a close so I asked him if he had any parting words for the student body?

"Take advantage of your resources: Learning, Career Centers, etc. Do not go through college and just take classes, but get every aspect of what college has to offer. GET EXPERIENCE! You'll be competing with graduates from USC, UCLA, and any other 'big' university. Computer, writing, and communication skills are important. Get these skills because you will be using them no matter what you do." With these words in mind, we parted.

Lee has left an imprint in all of us. He established a form of communication with students when it was at its peak, the Internet. The sending of the weekly emails on opportunities that would enhance our lives and careers will hopefully be continued by his successor. Lee started something great and I do hope such greatness will continue. Mike Lee will be missed by all and we all wish him the best!

A Piece of Brentwood History:

The Farmer's Market and Brentwood Village

By Kim Leng

Contributing Writer

It was around 3:30 on a beautiful February day when a friend and I took the shuttle down to Sunset and Barrington Place to explore the Brentwood Farmer's Market. Having seen the market a couple of times in the afternoons while on my way to other destinations, I always wanted to stop by it, but never had the time.

Prior to coming down that day, I had asked several people a simple question about what day the Brentwood Farmer's Market was on and had gotten two different responses. Some said Wednesdays and some said Thursdays. My friend and I decided to go on a Wednesday since it would possibly be on Wednesday. If not, we would be back the next day.

So on that sunny Wednesday afternoon as we got out of shuttle, we looked diagonally across the intersection to where Anthony's Flower shop was, next the Chevron gas station. There were no market stands in front of it. The market would've started there and continued along that same street which arches to the entrance of Wells Fargo Bank. We were disappointed and thought that it must be on a Thursday, but we weren't sure. We thought we had better ask rather than coming here again, only to be disappointed.

Walking into Anthony's Flower shop, there was a faint scent of the sweet smell of roses. It felt refreshing and cool there. Two women were busy arranging bouquet of roses over at the counter to the far right of the store. We were on the other half of the shop where most of the plants and flowers were. The women looked over at us wandering around the store and quickly got back to their flower arrangement. The shop had some nice leafy plants and I noticed an orchid plant for \$130. It was beautiful with about five white flowers the size of tangerines.

A couple feet from the orchid plant there was a man standing in front of what looked like a high table that went up past his waist, that if it were a feet higher it would look like a podium. He had close to a dozen light yellow roses laying on the table. He was pulling some leaves off the roses. Since he was closest, we decided to ask him what day the Farmer's Market was on. He said it was on Tuesdays. He also said that it was closed down three weeks after Christmas. It was a good thing we decided to ask. If we had come back the next day, we would've been disappointed again.

We could've decided to take a cab and go back to school, but it was nice to be away for awhile, even if it was just down the hill. We decided to go exploring this little Brentwood circle we see all the time but never really stopped to explore. We walked into practically every store. One of the first stores we walked into was a clothes store called the Snotty Brat Kid. The blonde woman there was nice. She told us to relax and look around. We didn't want to stay long and there wasn't much to look at. There was mostly denim skirts and jeans.

My friend told her about our original intent of coming down here for the Farmer's Market and I asked her if she knew anything about it. She said the same thing the man at Anthony's Flower shop had said; that the weekly Farmer's Market was now closed, since three weeks after Christmas. I asked her why it was closed. She told us that the merchants decided to close the market because not many people participated. The merchants were paying weekly for the spot and they weren't making any money due to people's lack of participation.

When I asked her if she knew how long this market has been going on and she said she didn't know exactly when it got started. She only knew that the market was already there when she moved to the Brentwood area about 20 years. We thanked her for the information and

continued on with our exploration.

There was another flower shop, a barber shop, a restaurant, and a pharmacy. We walked into the pharmacy and realized that it had a gift shop on the second floor. We walked up there and there were some interesting things on that floor. I remember seeing a bunch of stuff animals, scented candles, cards and little decorative boxes. We got out of there and crossed the street to the other block.

We explored more stores here. There was another flower shop, a coffee shop, a toy store, a pet supply store, a hair accessory store, and there was even a little grocery store. We then wanted to get something to eat and saw The International Deli. I had been told that they make good sandwiches here.

We went in and ordered the Montana Avenue. It was a chicken sandwich with cheese, cucumber, avocado, sprouts, lettuce and tomato. Yes, they have some interesting names for their sandwiches here such as Chalon Road, P.C.H. and San Vicente Blvd., just to name a few. The sandwiches here are very good, especially the Montana Avenue.

What an unexpected day this turned out to be. We had come here with one intention and ended up exploring the entire Brentwood Village. Things hadn't turned out as we planned, but we had fun exploring this little circle of shops. As interesting as this was, I don't think I'd want to come here again. It was just fun to discover what this little place had to offer.

Now that I know what this place has, one day here was enough for me. There wasn't anything here that really struck me as so interesting that I'd want to come again. However, I did like The International Deli and if I do stop by, that will be the one place I'll go. Also, I would come here again if the Farmer's Market would come back, but I don't know if that will ever happen.

Solution and Evolution

By Artist and Architect Gregg Fleishman
Part of the Getty Lecture Series

Thursday, March 2, 2000
7:00 pm
Getty Museum

There will be two 25-passenger shuttles available, one leaving from Doheny at 5:30 pm and the other from Chalon at 6 pm. Please contact Jody Baral to reserve a spot. There are also 50 parking passes available for individual drivers. Please contact Jody Baral at jbaral@msmc.la.edu for more information.

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Call us at (310) 954-4122 or e-mail us at oracle@msmc.la.edu.

"The Writers Series" A Night of Poetry with Marilyn Chin

Wednesday,
March 8, 2000
8:00 pm

Jose Drudis-Biada
Art Gallery

Reviews: The Beach; Magnolia

By Jocelyn Lee

Entertainment Editor

The BEACH **1/2

The "Beach" is a Generation X version of *Lord of the Flies* (but chock full of beautiful 20-some-things) that comes nowhere close to being half as poetic as the novel. It starts off promisingly enough and prepares the audience for a journey to a mythical Thai island with a restless American backpacker named Richard (Leonardo DiCaprio).

The first half of the movie plays well. The film stumbles, however, when Leo's character has to "deal" with the fallout of his own unwise decisions. Instead of taking responsibility, he turns inward and goes "native" on the island.

After the halfway point, the movie really starts falling apart at the seams; you don't quite agree the decisions Richard makes, you don't really understand why he loses his grip on reality and ultimately you wind up not liking him. He lies, cheats, and contributes to the death of four innocent people. Well, five if you count his mercy killing.

I fell in love with the beach itself and the soundtrack, amazingly, didn't render too intrusive (as is the case with many films these days). Too bad I could not say the same for the rest of "The Beach."

Sorry, but nice beach shots and a split-second topless scene with **Leonardo DiCaprio stars as Richard in The Beach.**

French siren Virginie Ledoyen do NOT constitute a good movie. In the end, the only point this movie made was that "nothing lasts." Nothing, that is, except for Leo-mania.

Magnolia **** 1/2

The Premise: This ensemble cast drama follows nine different interweaving stories set in the San Fernando Valley. To quote the press release, "there are nine plots that tell one story, set in the San Fernando Valley on a day full of rain with no clouds."

As far as the characters go, they are a colorful bunch. Here's a quick rundown: Robards plays dying media mogul Earl Partridge; Hoffman

plays his kindly, caretaker/nurse; Moore plays the Earl's pill-popping, gold-digging trophy-wife; Cruise plays the irrepressible Frank TJ Mackey, the estranged son of Earl, who's mantra, "SEDUCE AND DESTROY," forms the basis of his misogynistic infomercials; Hall plays the respectable but hypocritical game show host Jimmy Gator; Blackman plays a young whiz kid contestant who just wants to please his domineering father; Macy plays former whiz kid Donny who is now stuck in a bit of an intellectual rut; Walters plays the game show host's angry, coke-addicted daughter; Reilly plays a bumbling but likable police officer straight out of COPS; and Luis Guzman plays himself. WHEW! ...And that was supposed to be the "quick rundown?"

If you're still reading this, chances are you know by now if you want to see *Magnolia* or not. I find myself divided... I want to encourage you to discover this film for yourself, because I'm certain some people will just love it.

On the other hand, I predict just as many people won't. If, however, you are often entranced by stories of the human condition, then this may be one view you want to sample.

For those who have seen the movie, I have included an additional review below especially for you. Caution! There are huge spoilers included, so don't go there if you don't want the movie ruined for you.

Movie-Goer's Rating System:

- ***** Brilliant, inspiring, a classic
- **** First Rate—worth your time and \$
- *** Flawed but had its moments
- ** Desperation Time
- * Someone please shoot the producer



Magnolia: CAUTION: HUGE spoilers ahead!!!!

For those who've seen the film only! Read at your own risk!

On another note, for those who have told me that they didn't "get" the 3+ hour film and are still befuddled about the the story's stock apocalyptic ending, I have this to offer: Think about the movie's main themes (regret, forgiveness, and LETTING GO of the past).

There are a myriad of references in *Magnolia* that hint to "Exodus 8:2" (i.e. a sign-card at the game-show reads "82," as does an ad at the bus stop, the "82" spelled out in rope in the opening suicide scene, the clocks all reading 8:20, the constant reference to 82% chance of rain, etc...) This Bible passage states exactly and simply: "If you refuse to let them go, I will plague your whole country with frogs."

It seems director P.T. Anderson

required an ending that would tie everything together, without having all the characters end up in the same place. With the froggie downpour, they were bound together by a single, shocking event.

In Exodus, the plague placed on the sinners of Egypt is that of frogs. In the film, all of the characters have sinned in one way or another, whether it was by sniffing coke, or by committing incest and/or adultery. As dubious as it seemed, the frog downpour became very real, and you never second-guessed it because "this is actually happening; things like this DO happen."

The amphibian shower purged the hatred and sins of the characters and allowed all to start anew. Cruise was finally forced to some sort of

reconciliation with Earl, Hoffman could move on to a new patient, Macy failed to get his braces and put the money back, Robards died (just-fully) in a sea of frogs. Stanley began to stand up to his father, and Reilly and Dillion were free to launch their romance. The frogs left such a mess that everyone was able to forget about their own mess and realized that they were one particle in the larger picture.

As you can see, *Magnolia* is the cinematic equivalent of a crossword puzzle. It's a very different kind of film. There will be those don't "get it" or don't care for the game that's being played. But one thing IS certain: there's no way that anyone who's seen *Magnolia* will ever forget it.

Said and Heard: Top Stories in the Entertainment World

Compiled by Jocelyn Lee,

Entertainment Editor

CASTING

Will Smith may star in "Phone Booth" as an ordinary guy who randomly picks up a pay phone and ends up getting pursued by a sniper because of it. It probably made sense at the pitch meeting....

COMING AND GOING

Yasmine Bleeth will be leaving "Nash Bridges" at the end of this season, next year she may join Aaron Spelling's new NBC nighttime soap, "Titans," playing the trophy wife of an aging airline mogul.

DRAWING THE LINE

Fox Television Entertainment Group chairman Sandy Grushow has announced that the "Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire?" debacle has made him decide that the network will no longer produce the kind of extreme "reality specials" according to the New York Times. He said that the network would undergo a "paradigm shift" and concentrate on "quality entertainment series." Unfortunately, right now Fox is very low on quality entertainment series, what with "Beverly Hills, 90210" going and "Party of Five" and "The X-Files" also possibly on their way out.

PRODUCT PLACEMENT

"Britney Spears CD Bubble Gum" will hit stores in March (to coincide with the singer's new album), with a flat piece of gum being sold in a CD case. A portion of the proceeds will go to charity. There's nothing better for an artist of questionable longevity to promote herself through a candy that loses its taste relatively quickly!

Bravo, marketers!

EXPECTING

According to Britain's Daily Mirror, Kate Winslet is pregnant with her first child, which is due in September.

COURT LOSERS

The Spice Girls lost the lawsuit they filed against Italian scooter maker Aprilia SpA -- which manufactured a Sonic Spice scooter that bombed after Geri Halliwell left the group in 1998 -- and must now pay \$1.6 million in damages and court costs, according to Reuters.

Aprilia claimed that the Girls knew that Geri might be leaving the group when they signed the endorsement deal but didn't tell the company.

GETTING A RAISE

A little public whining can go a long way: After complaining on "The Late Show" that he was underpaid, Regis Philbin is now reportedly finalizing a deal with Buena Vista Productions (which owns "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire") that could give him an annual salary of \$20 million, according to the Hollywood Reporter. His reps had no comment, possibly stunned into silence by their impending bonuses.

—Taken from EWPathfinder

The Cure's Bloodflowers: Magnificently Melancholy

By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer

"When we look back at it all, as I know we will, we always have to say goodbye," sings Cure singer and patriarch Robert Smith on the first song of his latest album.

Smith has been the driving force of The Cure for 20 years and 20 albums. The two decades of Cure music has culminated with *Bloodflowers*, rumored to be the band's last shout. Intended as the final disc in a trilogy which began with 1982's *Pornography* and continued with 1989's *Disintegration*, *Bloodflowers* has finality literally written all over it.

There is not even a glimpse of the mid '90s atrocity Wild Mood Swings... it's all morose and down; fortunately, morose and down is up for Smith, whose writing—diverse in other atmospheres—is affably sad and indelibly wise when he plays in a minor key.

The Cure are said to be the fathers of Goth-rock. They are said to be the drag queens of gloom rock. They

are also said to be one of the most brilliant bands of the twentieth century.

Smith, now just a wink over forty years old, still wears the eyeliner and the smeared lipstick. Along with the never-ending make-up bag he owns, his lyrical tongue does not disappoint.

The production is full, dense, and atmospheric, and the songs don't rush themselves, but take their own bitter-sweet time. "I've been watching me fall for it seems like years," he sings accurately. And what singing: Smith's voice flies high over the chasm, echoing and quavering, even when the lyrics direly insist that "if it can't be like before I've got to let it end."

While endings are the theme, Smith is subtle enough to let in tiny but illuminating rays of possibility: "the world is neither fair nor unfair," he sings in "Where the Birds Always Sing"—fair enough.

"Maybe Someday" even (ambiguously) allows that "maybe someday is when it all stops—or maybe someday always comes again."

"There Is No If"—one of Smith's best ever—admits that "there is no if—just and." "And" just may be enough.

Recognizing that "just enough" is all that life allows is what each moment of the album gets at. "The Loudest Sound" is reminiscent of a Beatles' evil doppelganger because its lovers "in silence...pass away the day." But they have more than silence; they have each other.

Yet "39" is about how when one's "fire's almost cold," then "there's nothing left to burn," and the epic title track, "Bloodflowers," is the eerie, grim culmination of everything The Cure have ever done: "never die, these flowers will never die" slowly grows into its lyrical counterpart, "always die, these flowers will always die." The song is Smith's epic, and ends with our hero's pricking himself audibly, letting flowers of blood fall.

When it's all said and done, I can't quite believe that we've heard the last from Smith, though there's always that risk; after all, epics live in the retelling, and while flowers fade and die, there are always more flowers to come.

Le Bon Ton Roule y Lagniappe: Let the Good Times Roll!

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

Le Bon Ton Roule y Lagniappe: let the good times roll and a little something extra, as we say in New Orleans. And what a good time it will be at this year's 2000 Mardi Gras. It is set to roll on March 7th. But, have you ever heard of Lundi Gras? Probably not. Lundi Gras is Mardi Gras Eve. The language, parades and food make it all worth while. With this information, let's take a closer look at the biggest partying celebration ever.

The French, Creole (same as French and African-American, or Hispanic, or Carribean or all of the cultures), and Cajuns (French Acadians from Canada) influence the slang or southern dialect. The southern drawl that you probably expect to hear is not prevalent; however, the common accent is still not up to the standard of proper English. Want a crash course or just want to get a kick out of the weird tang? Well, here are some of the most common expressions used in everyday life and during the two-month Mardi Gras celebration.

"Beaucoup crasseux" which means very dirty. It's used in reference to dirty clothes, dirty floors, or "airing yours or someone else's dirty laundry."

"Bourre" is a card game played by the older generation on streets or porches attached to their homes and watched in amusement by younger crowds. And there are no counties in Louisiana, only parishes.

"Cher" is used to greet or introduce someone. For example, "Oh, my Cher, will you come ova by ma Mama's with me today." Or, "Cher, can I get your numbers."

"It don' madda" and "Yea you right" are transferable into common phrases, but are just examples of the influenced dialect practiced. By the way, "Nawlins" is the way New Orleans is pronounced.

Now, let's get into the French Quarter or Vieux Carre' scene where the real happenings are! While visiting you can go to the Uptown or "upriver" when you are done partying and ready to shop, shop, shop.

"Throw Me Something, Mister" is the most important phrase to learn. By screamin' this at every float that passes by you are sure to earn beads, doubloons

(fake coins with emblems), plastic things, and possibly even coconuts, during Zulu only. All the collectibles that you catch are called "throws." A Krewe (crue) is the "carnivals" participants or the parade's members. A "favor" is a souvenir or collectable given to you by a friend or associate. Just a clue, almost every float will have someone named Mary Ann, John, Larry, or Krystal Mae.

Now lets talk parades. The most popular, most entertaining to attend are Zulu, Rex, Zeus, Orpheus, Bacchus, and the Endymion. They all take place between March 4th and 7th.

But, they are not all in the Heart of New Orleans; some of them are on the outskirts which include Uptown, Gretna, Metairie, Slidell, The Westbank (the best bank), the Eastbank (mostly New Orleans), and Mid-City. If you want or desperately need information on parades and the schedules log on to www.MardiGras.com.

And in the old tradition, I have saved the best for last. The food is so good! The most important thing for Mardi Gras is the Kingcake. Without this, there is no real Mardi Gras. This cake consists of sweet dough, topped with purple, green, and gold coloring, filled with something like cream cheese, apple cinnamon, cherry, and pineapple fillings.

It also has a baby hidden inside. Whoever finds the baby normally wins a prize or a dance with a handsome gentleman. Of course, along with Kingcake comes the normal, everyday delicious treats like gumbo, red beans and rice, beignets and cafe au lait. Great restaurants top off the time spent there. For information on menus and ratings tap into www.satchmo.com.

Well, I can not wait until Mardi Gras so I can get "my catch on, my throw on, and my eat on." I hope you learned something new or got a good laugh out of the culture that is originally New Orleans.

So, start saving up for a celebration at Mardi Gras next year. I'll save a place for you on Bourbon Street to see sites and mingle with the crowd.

"Let the good times roll and get a little something extra" while you are there. But, if you cannot come, remember, do not be picayune or picky, just rest assured that we Southern folks will be awaitin' for ya arms wide open with hospitality and the porch light.

What is Mardi Gras?

"Mardi Gras" is French for "Fat Tuesday." It is the day before the 40-day fasting season of Lent begins, and so, in the Catholic world, it came to be a time of great festivity, carnival, and "letting loose" with costumes, dance and wild good times—including indulgence in high-calorie delicious foods! You have probably heard of the all-out Mardi Gras celebrations in New Orleans and Rio de Janeiro, but you probably didn't know that they got started as the last chance to party before Lent.

Lent, the 40-day season during which we prepare for Easter, comes from the old English term for springtime—"lengthening" days. Since in many places Lent was a time for fasting not only from meat but from eggs, butter, sweets and cheese, Mardi Gras became a time to thoroughly enjoy these treats one last time before the Easter celebrations began.

This year, Mardi Gras is on Tuesday, March 7, since Ash Wednesday begins Lent on March 8. Join in the fun of celebrating Mardi Gras!

The following celebrations are sponsored by Campus Ministry, AACW and Student Activities:

- Everyone is invited to wear Mardi Gras Attire, such as wild costumes, or purple, green and gold clothing.
- During dinner, there will be special Mardi Gras entertainment and food.
- Watch out for prizes during the day.

Ten Fun and Free (or Cheap) Things to Do in LA

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

I don't have anything to do! Where can I go? Is there anywhere to go? Yes, there are plenty of places to go and here are some suggestions of some inexpensive or free (yes, free) places to go:

1. Ed Debevic's in Beverly Hills on 134 North La Cienega Blvd is a great place to eat for families with children or college students. The menu includes hamburgers, chili, and hotdogs. You can get a great meal for under \$10 a person.

2. Go see a theatrical production like *Jitney* or *The Last Cowboy*. Call (213) 628-2772 for information on *Jitney* or (323) 667-2000 for information on *The Last Cowboy*.

3. Take a stroll to Mann's Theatre and have lunch about a block away at Johnny Rockets.

4. Go see the exhibition at The Southwest Museum, which include contemporary masks and carving. It is open until May 6th. Tickets are \$10 and \$8 for those under 17. Call (213) 480-3232 or go to your nearest TicketMaster location at Robinsons May or The Warehouse.

5. Explore Chinatown and experience

great food, great shops, and people with great hospitality.

6. Checkout Koreatown for great food also and great stores, and, of course people.

7. Try the UCLA Royce Hall for different upcoming performances. Call (310) 825-2101 for more information.

8. Write something! You can always join the Oracle or write for a production off campus. For more information about the Oracle call ext. 4410,4112, or 4558. Call (310) 306-5714 for information on writing for *Off The Wall*, a calendar and brief of upcoming events in theatre and musical productions. Or research other possibilities on your own!

9. Attend a stand-up comedy show. For more information call (310) 285-3799.

10. Go stroll the Beverly Center and see a movie. For times and listings of coming movies call: (310) 652-7760.

So, if none of these things appeal to you do your own research and come up with something to do. It is Los Angeles, so, trust me you'll find something to keep you busy (as if homework and studying is NOT enough).

Club Events in March

1 Wednesday

Hawaiian Club Raffle
Doheny Grad Fair
Filipino Expo
Senior Class meeting

2 Thursday

Hawaiian Club Raffle
Doheny Grad Fair
ICC meeting
3 Friday
ISAE's Ballet Hispanico
ASB's Formal

4 Saturday

ISAE - Creative Options for Women Conference

5 Sunday

Mass
Feeding The Homeless
Mass Choir Practice

6 Monday

LUNDI GRAS DAY
Scripture Reflection
AACW's Mardi Gras Celebration
Oracle Meetings

7 Tuesday

MARDI GRAS DAY
Getty Lecture Series
AACW's Mardi Gras Celebration Continued

9 Thursday

Sienna Day

12 Sunday

Mass
Feeding The Homeless
Mass Choir Practice

13 Monday

Scripture Reflection
Oracle Meetings

19 Sunday

Mass
Feeding The Homeless
Mass Choir Practice

20 Monday

Scripture Reflection
Oracle Meetings

21 Tuesday

ISAE- GroupWise Workshop

23 Thursday

ISAE Excel Workshop

26 Sunday

Mass
Feeding The Homeless
Mass Choir Practice

27 Monday

Scripture Reflection
Oracle meetings

30 Thursday

Advisement period begins

31 Friday

Na Pua O Ka' - First Annual Lu'au

The Oracle

Mount St. Mary's College
12001 Chalon Road, Los Angeles, CA 90049
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Tuition Rises, Students Search for Answers

By Joan Fletcher

Editor

A moan of anguish rose through the campus last week. Students received "the letter." The dreaded letter comes every year, with announcements of rising prices and new fees to cover the many services the college provides its students.

Tuition this year for full-time undergraduates has risen to \$17,036. Room and board has also gone up. The lowest price is \$5,840 for a Quadruple at Doheny and the highest is \$8,690 for a single, private bath at Chalon. The increase in rates is estimated at about five percent.

Other fees that have risen include the comprehensive student fee and the parking fee. A new addition is the technology fee. At the sight of these new expenses, students wince and complain, wondering what possible reasons the school could have to raise the prices.

According to Dr. Jane Lingua, Vice-President of Student Affairs, "In determining the tuition increase each year, we look at the increase in college expenses which fund our operating budget.... We also look at all the independent colleges in Southern California. We're still considered a 'best buy.'"

Lingua also said the tuition for an

"institution of our caliber" is fairly low. She then went on to explain some of the fees.

The comprehensive student fee, like most others, has gone up to cover the costs of operation. Lingua said a major part of the fee went to cover the rising costs of health services. The cost of medicine as well as the amount the doctors are contracted for rises significantly each year.

Other aspects of this fee pay for graduation expenses, orientation fees, ASB expenses, and the year-book. A modest percentage is allotted to the Fitness Center. Lingua said the comprehensive fee pays for many things students once had to pay for out of pocket. For instance, graduating seniors were required to pay \$150 at the end of their senior year. To alleviate the burden of this expense, it was spread out over the four years through the comprehensive fee.

The ASB fee, another aspect of the comprehensive student fee, is used to run the student government and to fund the clubs.

The new technology fee will help "main-

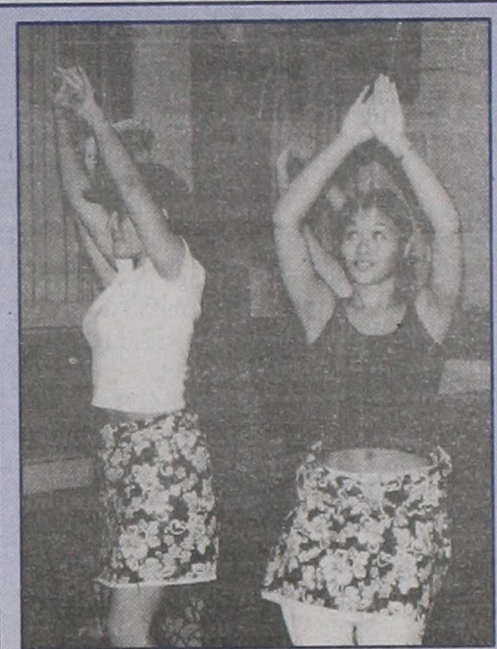
tain the infrastructure of technology," according to Lingua. It will be used to "maintain and upgrade cabling and websites and to replace computers in the library and computer lab."

According to Hyrum Hall, Vice President of Administration and Finance, the college received "many grants to start technology, but they don't continue. They expect the college to pick it up." Due to the increasing importance of computers and technology, the budget has grown tremendously and the small fee is being charged to help offset the expenses by a small percentage.

Other fees of interest include the parking fee, which rose by 50%. According to Lingua, the college raised the price because they wanted to "try to have the users pay for parking instead of absorbing it into the budget for everyone to pay." She also affirmed that it costs more than \$150 to maintain the parking lots, which

includes painting, paving, lighting and taxation.

Another large increase in fees is felt by the residents who are paying an increase in room and board. The increase comes from an increase in costs for utility bills and food.



Brianne Williams, *The Oracle*

Members of the Hawaiian Club at Chalon practice their dance for the Luau, to take place March 31, 2000.

They also have proposals to make improvements which are pending approval by the budget committee. Lingua said the projects that will be funded should be announced in May.

Lingua expressed an interest in helping students understand where their money is going and invites students to attend the forum on April 4, 2000 at 1 p.m. in the Campus Center on the Chalon Campus. Come discuss your concerns and receive answers to your questions.

Week Set Aside to Honor to Student Employees

This year Student Employment Week will be April 10-14, 2000. On both campuses, student employees perform invaluable services with enthusiasm and dedication.

Our college depends on these services for the efficient operation of the entire school. Therefore, it is appropriate to set aside a special week to draw the awareness of others to the contributions student employees make to many departments and to our college.

Through student employment, students also benefit both financially and by gaining valuable skills and work experiences which are the beginnings of a successful career, as the theme of SEW, "Student Employment: Stepping Stones to Success" indicates.

To help celebrate Student Employment Week, a committee of supervisors and students was formed to plan the activities of the week, keeping the theme of SEW in mind as they did so.

These activities include a department project showing what their department is about, why students should and/or like to work there and how their jobs could help students in

the future; a contest for students where they match first jobs with people on campus; supervisors showing appreciation to their student employees in creative and special ways throughout the week.

On Thursday, a reception on both campuses will be held from 1-2 p.m. at the Chalon Lecture Hall and late afternoon at Doheny for student employees, administrators, supervisors, and others.

At each reception, refreshments will be served and departments may present their projects. Prizes will be given for the above projects, contests, and to others who have contributed in any way to the success of SEW. The highlight of the reception will be the honoring of the nominees for the Student Employee of the Year.

The students selected as the Student Employee of the Year for Chalon and Doheny will be announced at their respective receptions. Each student will be presented the MSMC Student Employee of the Year perpetual trophy with her name added to previous recipients.

—Submitted by Sister Jeanne Anne,
Chalon Student Employment Office

News Briefs: Around the Mount

•Six Mount faculty members were selected to participate in a two-year project called "Boundaries and Borderlands III: The Search for Recognition and Community in America." The project is being sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

The Mount community extends congratulations to Dr. Carla Bartlett, director of the secondary education program and team leader; Dr. Wanda Teays, philosophy; Dr. Fred Simonelli, history/political science; Tori Canillas-Dufau, nursing; Jody Baral, art; and Stephanie Cubba, director of Women's Leadership Program. The Mount team was one of only 40 colleges and universities chosen to participate in this program.

•Na Pua O Ka 'Aina is hosting the first annual Luau on the Chalon campus on Friday, March 31, 2000. Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. and the show will be at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are: Food—\$7 presale, \$8 at the door; Show—\$3 presale, \$4. For more information, please email <alohamsmc@hotmail.com>.

•The first annual Youth Summit on Peace will take place on Saturday, April 8, 2000.

•Pre-registration week for Fall of 2000 is April 3-7, 2000. Seniors and Juniors register on April 3rd, Sophomores on April 4th,

Freshmen on April 5th, and everyone on April 6th and 7th.

•The Chalon ASB is accepting applications for the 2000-2001 school year. Pick up applications in the Student Activities and Commuter Services Office on first floor Humanities.

•The Leadership Challenge will be held on March 25-26, 2000 on the Chalon campus.

•Chalon's ASB is sponsoring Multicultural Night, which is to take place on April 13, 2000. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners in the categories of Best Group Performance, Best Individual Performance, and Audience Choice.

•The Muses presents "The Women of Broadway," a musical review in two acts by Beverly Craveiro. It will be held April 7-9, 2000 in the Chalon Little Theater. Tickets are \$12 for Friday and Saturday evening and \$10 for the Saturday matinee and the Sunday evening showing. Student and senior discounts are available if purchased in advance.

Show times are as follows:

Friday 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 2:30 and 8:00 p.m.

Sunday 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call Suzi at x4500.

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How well do you know the faculty and staff that surround you? See their hidden skills.

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Marilyn Chin's visit to the Mount sparks interest in her poetry and in the Writer's Series

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Suzi's World: Why Audra McDonald is My Hero

By Suzi Schroeder

Staff Writer

"Who is your hero and why," is a common question. It is asked at interviews, on applications, and during ice breakers. Until recently, this has always been a difficult question for me. I would come up with something, usually reflecting my interests of the moment, but seldom have I so passionately been inspired with a single person.

Last year a friend of mine introduced me to the music of a young Broadway singer. My friend, who is a voice coach, constantly sings her praises (no pun intended). After hearing her beautiful voice that sings with such passion and skill, I fell in love.

I began to watch interviews, read articles and watch performances on video. I saw why this Fresno-born singer had taken Broadway by storm. There is something magical about her, not only when she is singing or performing, but when she's off stage as well.

Recently I had the opportunity to see her in concert. I was not disappointed. She was every bit as enchanting as I thought she would be. She's classy, professional and a natural performer, yet she's so natural and unassuming. When she sang her powerful songs, it was like she was singing to me. It was almost like she was surprised that we loved her so much, like she didn't realize her own popularity when the crowd erupted in cheers over and over again.

I think that these qualities are what draw people to her and cause them to love her so much. Even though she is a genuine per-

former, she still is just the girl next door, though an extremely talented one at that.

Over and over she charmed the crowd. She needed nothing on the stage except herself, a stool, and the musicians. She's engaged to the bass player, and once in a while he'll blow her a kiss.

She's all star quality, but has no need to flaunt it. She has such a beautiful voice that she has no need to make up for lack of skill by hiding behind back-up dancers, special effects, costuming, or fancy moves like some pop singers. We already know how special she is. She just radiates an inner charm and beauty that is as obvious in person as it is on stage. Another thing about her is that she really loves her

fans. After the concert, even though it was late, and she had just given a concert, she sat and signed autographs for both children and adults, and admitted that she didn't mind at all. Because I was in a group with several young children who were my friends' voice students, we were able to finagle a spot at the very front of the line. She took all the time in the world with the children, talking to each one and making them feel extra-special.

She also has such a passion for Musical Theatre. In an interview, I remember her admitting to going to Julliard because it was near Broadway. But singing opera only helped her expand her style. She sings beautiful operatic arias, throaty jazz songs, and catchy musical tunes with equal grace. She has also managed to break multiple barriers on Broadway. She got both the revival of *Carousel* (where she played Mrs. Snow) and Disney's recent remake of the movie musical

Annie (where she played Grace Farrel) to be colorblind casted. She also recently starred on Broadway in *Marie Christine* which was written for her, and I'm sure it won't be the last of such works. It says a lot when you're twenty-something and people are writing shows just for you. She also mainly sings songs from up and coming composers. It is hard for me to put into words why I think Audra McDonald is so wonderful. It is easier for me to pop in one of her CD's and say "listen" and let her songs speak for themselves. She is an inspiration to myself, and many others.

I have introduced Audra's works to the cast of the Muses's upcoming production of *The Women of Broadway*, a musical review, and they have come to love her every bit as I do. We have decided to dedicate the show to our favorite leading lady. She has become our mascot, each of us striving to be the performer she is. We may not have her voice and talents, or her charm on stage, but we have seen how musical theatre is supposed to be done, and try our hardest to emulate that.

Something about her just inspires us. Audra makes musical theatre look easy -- the cast can tell you, it's hard work. She also looks like she's having so much fun onstage. You can tell she loves what she does, and is every bit as sweet and charming in person as she is on stage. So next time I am asked who my hero is, I'll reply "Audra McDonald, because she is herself."

The Mount community would like to commend the Food Services workers for a job well done at Siena Day. The food was excellent and we appreciate your efforts.



Maya's Musings

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

Imagine a place where everything goes your way and there are never any complaints towards another human being. Now, come back to reality and step onto the campus of Mount Saint Mary's College.

Why is it that our school is run by the use of underhanded tactics? Everyone knows about the various offices and the "united" run-around that you get from each one. For example, there are several students that have issues with the Business Office and the Financial Aid Office. Why? Probably because they promise things or make statements that just are not true.

In the business office, many receive refund checks. Last semester, the checks were about a month-and-a-half late and I am sure that inconvenienced many without jobs or parents to support them. This problem could have been avoided if the Business Office had previously informed students of the possible delay. Students would have been better prepared and budgeted their money wisely. Sure, many students would still have been upset, but in the long run it would have caused a lot less worry and suffering to the Mount students and the employees of the Business Office.

Or how about going through almost the entire school year never know that you were granted work study? You go about breaking your neck in a sweat to make end's meet when all along you did sign up for work study on your FAFSA.

However, you were told by the Financial Aid Office that you could not have work study because you did not sign up for it.

Hey, it could happen and you would be pretty upset if it did, right? It has happened and it could happen to you if you forget about it or misplace your paper work in the midst of your busy schedule.

The moral of this story is to watch everything you do and everything everyone else does just to make sure that you do not get caught in a predicament like the two mentioned above. But, always keep in mind that all colleges have these type of problems; only some experience it more frequently.

I have found that every office gives the run-around, provides misinformation, and may misplace your files. My advice is to be strong, persistent and little paranoid when dealing with them.

It is probably the only way that you and anyone else will be treated fairly and get the quality service that our new tuition prices should be paying for.

So, next time you decide to take a walk into Wonderland slap yourself and use common sense skills to protect yourself in college life and in everyday life in the real world.

Should the U.S. Have a National Language?

By Noemi Rosales

Staff Writer

The United States is unlike any other country in the world. It has received people of different nationalities, religions and backgrounds throughout its long and intricate history. These people have come here in hopes of finding what their own countries were unable to provide (freedom or economic stability, for example).

No matter what the reasons were for coming to the United States, each group has brought with them their own culture and way of life. This has done nothing but multiply the rich diversity our nation and this what we're known for throughout the world. Along with their own ways of life, immigrants have also brought their own languages.

Despite the diversity that exists in this country, there are politicians and several different groups that feel that the United States should have a national language. They feel that if English became the official language, our country would be unified.

However, acquiring a national language would deny the existence of the diversity that makes up our nation. Of course, a language can give a country an identity. For example, when you think of France, you cannot help but think about the French language. When you think of Mexico, you cannot help but think about the Spanish language. Somehow, you end up associating a language with a country and vice versa.

But the United States is not like France and Mexico or any other country with an official, national language. They do not face the same issues the United States does when it comes to immigration and the diversity, interaction, harmony and disharmony of the cultures that become a part of our mainstream society.

Keeping this in mind, imagine if English became the national language of our country. Everything pertaining to "official business" or the government—from official forms to signs to education—will have to be in English, without regard to people who cannot read or understand English.

Of course the common argument to this statement is if anyone decides to come to this country they should know that learning English is a priority, a key to their "survival" in this country. In other words, they should assimilate to the "American" way as soon as they can. Unfortunately, this does not depict reality. The fact of the matter is that the United States is this huge "Melting Pot" that should not be taken for granted or be underestimated.

As a future educator, I know that obtaining an official and national language will greatly affect children of different linguistic backgrounds. Remaining as a nation without a national language is not a disadvantage and it is not a way to accommodate other languages either. On the contrary, it is a way to embrace the diversity that makes the United States what it is.

THE ORACLE

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Sister Janet Duffy Becomes AA Dean Spring Break in Vegas...

By Vianney Vasquez

Staff Writer

Sister Janet Duffy came to the Mount community in 1992. She arrived at the Doheny Campus to substitute the advisor of the Early Childhood Education program. The sister had previously taught elementary, junior high, high school, and had served as a principal. Now she came to Mount St. Mary's in search of a relaxed assignment.

For three years she relaxed, taking on positions where she filled in wherever she was needed. After three years, however, she left the Mount. This would not be the last time the college would see her. In September of 1998, she returned, not knowing that in less than two years she would be named the Dean of the Associate Arts of the Doheny Campus.

Since Sister Janet Duffy has not been part of the college for a long time, many students do not know much about this admirable woman. So here is a brief biography reintroducing us to the new Dean of Associate Arts at the Doheny Campus.

She was born and raised in San Francisco and is the middle of five children. As a young child, she lived a normal life yet her family differed a little from the typical "American Family." Her father worked like any other dad at the time, and so did her mother. This was quite unusual because it was a time when most mothers stayed at home to be "housewives."

Since her mother worked, it was up to Sister Janet and her sister to take of the household chores. She recalls that since she "liked to socialize," she had to finish her work fast. After, she would go out and "play a lot of sports."

As a teenager, Sister Janet was just like any other young adult. She dated, had fun and even

attended her prom. The only difference was that right after she graduated high school she decided to become a Sister of Saint Joseph.

Sister Janet said, "I knew I wanted to be a Sister." One of the things that made it easier for her to join was that the Sisters of Saint Joseph are a teaching order, and like she says, "I like teaching young people." However, it was difficult at the beginning. Since she was from San Francisco, she had to move to Southern California to join the order. It was difficult to leave her entire family behind. Not only did she miss her family, but her close friends as well.

It has now been many years since Sister Janet joined the order, and to this day she has never regretted her decision. She has, however, questioned it. She finds that sometimes she needs to revisit why she is where she is, and if she is doing what she says she's doing, but otherwise she is content.

Now Sister Janet's life is taking another turn. She has taught and been a principal, but now she will be acting as the Dean of Associate of Arts at the Doheny Campus. Sister says that she never thought about taking such a big job. She wouldn't have considered it if she was never asked. However, she was elected by Sister Karen Kenelly.

It feels strange for her to now be taking on a job that has so much responsibility when she was looking for something relaxing, but she seems quite happy and enthusiastic about taking on this new role. Her main goal for the Doheny Campus is to have enough resources available for the students, and that the students make good use of them.

The things she enjoys the most about the college are, "the students and community spirit." Now that we know a little more on our new Dean, and how excited she is about being here, let us embrace her and make her feel at home.



Secrets and Surprises

By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer

First of all, let me share my qualms with having Spring Break in the beginning of March. Every other school is still in session, meaning any Spring Break "hot spots" are anything but...they are freezing. Additionally, is it even spring yet?

Well, there's nothing I could do about it, so I had to make use of my one week. Two friends and I decided to plan a trip to Las Vegas. I got the okay from my parents to borrow "Big Red," as the girls affectionately call it; Big Red is a huge, four-door diesel truck. This monster had all the ammenties we'd need...air conditioning, cruise control, and of course a killer CD player and stereo system. Keep in mind, all of us are under the age of 21.

So what is there to do in Vegas when you're under 21? A whole lot, we discovered! Personally, I am not big on sitting in a smoky casino with old women who were at the pool about 30 hours too much and look like iguanas in tee-shirts. I would rather check out the hidden beauties of Las Vegas, and we did just that.

Our first stop was food. There is an incredible amount of places to eat in Vegas. Cheap buffets are always great, but stay away from the Krab with a "K" and shellfish that has been sitting in the melted ice too long. Ask one of traveling partners...ouch.

Another fun thing to do in Vegas is WALK! Yes, all you Angelenos with your cars, buses and taxis, walk! It was great just walk up and down the strip at sunset. We could see the sun going down as the backdrop for all the bright neon and hotels. We visited most of the hotels on the strip, and of the newer hotels, we decided that the most beautiful ones were The Mandalay Bay and Luxor.

The ones that disappointed us were New York New York and MGM Grand. A lot of the hotels get high marks just for their absolute tackiness and shameless decorating. I love the poshness of the Monte Carlo and The Golden Nugget. But you could only take so much of smoky casinos and tourists. So we headed outside.

The next thing we discovered was outlet shopping! My Mecca...Outlet Malls! So many different stores, such low prices, and such little time. I found a great pair of Steve Madden shoes for only \$20!! Steve Madden is an incredible shoe designer whose shoes usually go for at least \$80! But I digress... Another gem we found in Vegas itself was its plethora of interesting museums. Although I'd love to share all of them, I must only indulge you in the best museum in all of Nevada. None other than The Liberace Museum.

The highlight of our last day in Vegas was visiting the Liberace Museum. I don't know what possessed us to venture into the glittery and gaudy building, but we did. With our student IDs, the admission was only \$4.74, which gets donated to various AIDS charities. On display were the piano extraordinaire's various costumes, jewelry, and my favorite, his pianos! I adore pianos, and his were incredible! There was one entirely outfitted with jewels and glitter. He even had a car that matched the piano, which was on display with all his other cars.

I was amazed by his collection! He had pianos from the 1800's and a piano which was previously owned by Gershwin! After a stop in the museum gift shop, where I bought a fabulous pair of Liberace socks and postcards, we decided it was time to say good bye to Las Vegas.

We filled up Big Red with diesel fuel, made one last bathroom stop, and were on the road. With three girls, two bottles of Pepsi, my bottle of Evian, and a bumpy truck ride, it was inevitable there'd be one more stop on the way home. So after a scary encounter at the rest stop off highway 15, it was only hours until we were in our beds. I'm sure my traveling companions would agree that we had a decent Spring Break, and proved that there is more to Vegas than gambling, drinking, and expensive shows (although Carrot Top at the MGM Grand was so tempting).

THANK YOU!

The Annual Fund's Phonathon would like to thank the companies around Southern California for their on-going support. Their generosity is greatly appreciated by the students who participated in the 1999-2000 fall and spring Phonathons. The following companies donated gift certificates to use as prizes for the Phonathon callers. Through their generous donations the Phonathon callers gained the motivation they needed for the great job that they have done.

Thank you to:

Robinsons-May
Six Flags Magic Mountain
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FastFrame
Souplantation & Sweet Tomatoes
Glen Ivy Hot Springs
Louise's Trattoria
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
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In and Out Burger Restaurants
Mount St. Mary's College Bookstore
Cafe 50's
Starbucks Coffee Company
The Laugh Factory
The Improv Club
Los Angeles Zoo
Tony Roma's Restaurants
Raging Waters
Catalina Cruises
Dama Salon-Brentwood

Reminder:
The deadline to
Withdraw with a
"W" and to file
for CR/NC is
March 31, 2000.

—Registrar's Office

Mount Face

Hidden

...and other Tid-bites



Aretha Crout
Learning Center Program Assistant

The Learning Center is always buzzing with people and Crout is always there to assist with a smile, but did you know she is a professional dog trainer or how she puts it, "I don't train dogs, I train people to train their dogs." She specializes in K-9 (any dog in the dog family) behavior. "It is very important for the owner to understand the way the animal thinks," she added. "Most people expect their animal to think like humans, which is a big mistake."

As the interview proceeded, Crout gave me some tips on how to make your pet's life, as well as your own, easier. "Most people attempt to train their dogs with old fashioned methods like pushing a dogs nose in their excrement, which was an accident or striking their dog in any way. Instead, what is more effective and humane is training through positive reinforcement and controlling the access in your home for your untrained pet. Control the dogs living space so accidents cannot happen. I often tell my clients if your dog makes a mistake in the house, roll up a newspaper, hit YOURSELF over the head, and say 'bad owner...bad bad owner.' " Such a thought was amusing, but effective. Why should a dog be punished for something it doesn't know is wrong.

Monica Lond
Career Planning

I bake. I make awesome chocolate chip cookies...just ask anyone here! I also love to read, but usually like mysteries by women. Ninety percent of the time, the books I read are by women. Sue Grafton is one of my favorites.



Mike Skoric
Transcript Processor in the Registrar's Office

I collect coins, especially those of US and Balkan origins. I also have Roman and Byzantine coins. They can cost from three dollars to thousands of dollars. You have to be careful because there are lots of fakes. You have to know what you're doing. I worked in a bank in Yugoslavia and so got experience seeing the coins.

I love history and I love people. I like to help if I can. I like the coins because there aren't many written documents [that tell history], but we have tombstones, coins and things like clay jars. That's how we learn of the past, of what they did and how they did it.

Alex Sosa
Doheny Director of Residence Life

I like to cook and sign to my 18 month old daughter Camila. So, I know a lot of children's songs. I also like the game dominoes.

Maria Lyons
Director of Student Activities,
Doheny

I have been asked to do imitations of Tina Turner and they say I am good at it, I guess.

"She is good at it! She's hip and elegant," said Alex Sosa.

"Maria is the happiest person on the face of the earth. She has lots of energy," according to Chrissy Liu.



Roberts, Sosa and Lyons pose for the camera.

Bernadette "Bernie" Roberts,
Director of Student Ambassador Program, Doheny campus

I like making people feel good about themselves. I also like cake decorating and I am a coach. I coach soccer and am an Assistant Basketball Coach, both for 7 year olds.

"She's a miracle worker, the angel of MSMC," commented Chrissy Liu.

Elena Barnes
Administrative Assistant
Student Affairs.



I used to collect stamps and coins. I now collect General Mills box tops. I also like to parasail at the beach. You hook up to a boat with a parachute... It's great. It's so pretty up there.

Jill Verceles
Secretary of Education Department



I like to play piano as to travel. I've been (both the last and I've traveled all over My favorite place France. Some people are mean here and like you if you don't French, but I was lost very helpful. I also like to

Faculty and Staff

Hidden Talents

things you probably didn't know!

As we walk through the halls and visit departments, we never stop and think if someone meets the eye? We see the people that help us every day do other things out-
but I bet you didn't know such thoughts pondered in the mind of a scavenger hunt and faculty/staff if they have talents we should know about what I found out!
L. Almanza, Oracle Features Editor

Sister Karen Kennelly
President

"Sr. Karen is a good cook...gourmet!" Maria Lyons and Alex Sosa exclaimed.

Sister Mary Evelyn Flynn
Education Advisor

I love to read. I like almost all children's books. I also like mysteries and biographies...a lot of things. But, I don't like books by authors like Stephen King.

Sr. Teresita Espinosa
Music Professor

I love nature. I love to admire the beauty of flowers, trees, little animals that can't harm you, deer, foliage....

I play piano and sing. I had to learn all the instruments for my doctorate, but haven't gone back to them all since I completed it. I love music because it gives me the opportunity to express myself in many different voices. I love going to live performances, museums and the theater.

Meynard Ancheta
Assistant Director, Learning Assistant Program

Ancheta not only creates workshops to make our lives easier, but he can save our lives too! His hidden talent is being martial artist. "I practice an old style of Japanese martial arts that has been around since the 1600's. It is more of a family military system," responded Ancheta. The martial art is an old family style from Japan called Shi eare Yanagi Ryu Aiki Bugei that is a comprehensive martial system that practices every aspect which includes hand to hand (Jiu Jitsu), swordsmanship (Ken Jitsu), knife techniques (Tong Jeantu), spear fighting, glaive fighting, tieing arts, and archery.

"In order to understand the Japanese art, I also needed to study the Chinese arts of Tai Chi, Bagua, Xing Yi, Yi Chuan, and White Crane

"This type of practice, from Japan and China, is internal. It's not about lifting weights or strength, but technique, principles, and ability/sensibility to use our body properly. Taking into account the fact that such a hobby must have been hard to learn. He simply smiled at me and said, "I've been doing this since I was a kid. I don't remember a time I wasn't into martial arts. The earliest time I remember doing this is when I was 3 years-old. I practice everyday, four hours a night during the week and six hours on Saturday."

Before I knew Ancheta's hidden talent, I knew he was dedicated and had a lot of discipline, but this surpassed all of my presumptions. The old cliché of "never judging a book by its cover," states the truth in this situation. When someone meets him for the first time, he seems very passive, defenseless, even "weak" since his build is small. No one expects him to be this martial arts guru, which works for his benefit because no one suspects the "little guy."

Juan Villasenor
Food Services Supervisor



I raise birds—parakeets, lovebirds, finches, canaries, diamond doves.... It's relaxing. I like to listen to them. It's a hobby. Also, I only breed them. I don't sell them.



Sister Kieran and Sister Mary Evelyn browse through some Liberal Studies portfolios.

Sister Kieran Vaughan
Coordinator of Liberal Studies

I walked the Marathon last year as well as in 95 and 96. It was exciting...and I did it in under 8 hours (barely). I also like to garden. I grow flowers and tomatoes. I also enjoy looking at the Academic Portfolios.

Susan Fread
Academic Advisement

I just started playing piano again. I haven't played since college... which was a long time ago! My husband bought me an electronic keyboard for Christmas.



All Photos taken by
Brianna Williams,
Oracle Photographer.

Life with the Pixymobile: How I Found a \$20 Car!

By Suzi Schroeder

Staff Writer

I love my car. I drive a 1978 Buick Station Wagon. She's not a pretty car—not compact either—and gets only 12 miles to the gallon. I get many dirty looks driving around the cosmopolitan, appearance-conscious Brentwood. I get tail-gated and yelled at. Jerks in hotrods like to speed up when I'm changing lanes and honk at me.

Sometimes it really pisses me off. "Don't like my car, buy me a new one," is my motto. But my good, old American-made solid steel car could beat up one of those fiberglass-mobiles any day.

I do get sick of people discriminating against my car. I can't valet park it at my fave night spot—it's "too big" (it's a nine seater with seatbelts...with an eight-track player). One day I was driving down the hill and was going up a narrow side road. I turned a blind corner, and a woman was driving down the middle of the two-lane road, in a shiny SUV with a bunch of kids in the car. I'm paranoid about hitting someone so I hit the brakes and pulled out as far as I could go—I didn't want to hit the kids. My brakes squeaked and the woman stopped and gave me the dirtiest look you could imagine. I was only going 15 MPH, this was supposed to be the "up" road, not the "down" road. But that look broke my heart.

I also have trouble parking. It's a big

car. I can't park in compact spaces, and I'm (again) scared of hitting someone. There are only two lots I can park in at the Mount, and one of those only has a few spaces in which I can fit. Parallel parking's a nightmare, but I love my car. I really had no choice in buying the *pixy*—it was just too good to pass up.

Last summer I began the car search. Unfortunately, my budget would get laughed off used car lots. There was nothing in the papers. So I began to ask around. All I wanted was something I could drive all summer, load all my stuff in, and go back to Phoenix at the end of August. I didn't care if it lasted past then. Finally, someone mentioned that her friend was trying to unload his "college car," since he now had a "real" car. It wasn't pretty, she said, but it would be cheap, probably around \$300.

My friend Joan came with me to look at the car. It was owned by a guy who wanted to teach third grade and write songs like the Beatles. He was a bit on the strange side, but his friends were even stranger. But, he was a theater grad from Santa Cruz—go figure.

When I saw the car, I was nearly ready to turn back. It was a huge, rusty, light blue station wagon called the Blue Shamu. The owner of the car knew less

about cars than I do. He didn't know you were supposed to change the oil, and thought Joan was making stuff up when she mentioned the spoiler.

The car was in pretty bad shape. It had to be smogged and needed a lot of repairs. It had huge rust holes on the roof and evidence of accidents had been covered up with bondo. The inside was completely trashed as well. There was also a hanger hidden in the bumper—in case he locked himself out of the car. He also said it had no jumper cables or gas can.

Joan, in her "grease monkey gear" made a big show of all that was wrong with the car. Later I heard that she intimidated him really bad. He wanted \$100 for it. I didn't want to buy it before it was smogged. I was willing to pay more, but he didn't want to smog it—he was afraid it wouldn't pass.

After consulting with his friends he came up with his final offer—\$20 if I would smog it. I was sold. \$20 for a car! It was mine.

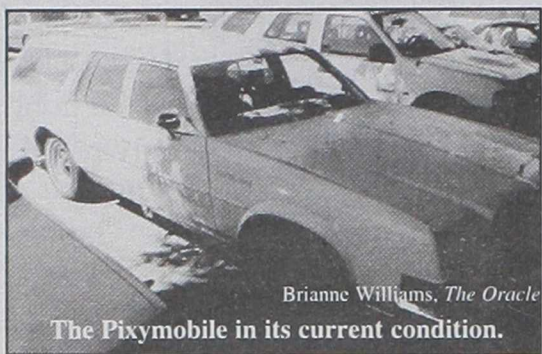
My \$20 car has been repaired. The huge rust holes have been epoxied and it has a new paint job. It passed smog (much to the surprise of many). When we opened the lock box (station wagons don't have trunks), we found jumper cables, a gas can, a bike tire tube, and many other things. We also found several weeks worth of laundry quarters and lots of rope in the back seat (the car nearly paid for itself!).

She has been renamed the "Pixymobile," though everyone

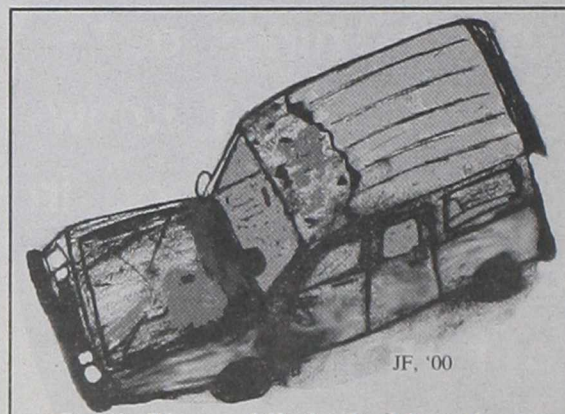
has their own nickname. I have removed the UCSC stickers and plastered it with MSMC and goddess bumper stickers. I love my car. She runs like a dream and has relatively few internal problems. The outside will fall apart sooner than the inside. Seven thousand miles and two trips through the desert later, she's still running.

My \$20 tale has amused many. My friends in Europe were flabbergasted at the story. The DMV people laughed at the price (it costs me more to fill it up than the original price). But I love my car, (and you should too). How many people own a \$20 car?

Even though it's not pretty, the Pixy is still a car, it's paid for, and when it dies, I can get a good sum for it at the scrap yard. So, I grin and bear it as a cruise around town. People may not like my car, they can hoot and holler all they want. If they don't love my Pixy as much as I do, well, that's their fault. Besides, my car would win.



Brianne Williams, The Oracle
The Pixymobile in its current condition.



Suzi's Pixymobile looked less than happy when she first found it.

THE CLASS OF 2000 SENIOR CLASS GIFT

What is it? Each year the graduating class of MSMC shows their support of the college by making a contribution to a project chosen by the class.

This year, the class of 2000 has voted to have their gift designated to a scholarship fund for future MSMC students.

Please consider making a gift of \$20.00 (in honor of our class year). But any amount you can give will help! Our goal is getting 100% of our class to participate!!!

There will be a table set up weekly in April outside the Little Theater where you can drop off your gift. Or you can mail checks (made payable to MSMC) by inter-campus mail to:

Office of Annual Giving, Doheny campus, attn: Senior Gift.

(This year you will also have the option of making an additional 3-year pledge. This means that in addition to your \$20.00 gift (or whatever amount you can give this year), you will pledge to give another \$20 in 2001, \$30 in 2002 and \$50 in 2003. This will add to the Class of 2000 Scholarship and will allow it to be awarded for 4 years!)

If you have questions, please call Liz Zima at extension 2534.

Thanks!

Movie Review: Final Destination

By Julie Purzycki

Staff Writer

Quite a few movies came and went during Spring Break, but there was only one that left me with sweaty palms and an incredible urge NOT to fly in a plane anytime soon.

Final Destination, written by Jeffrey Reddick, Glen Morgan and James Wong, is not your typical teen-scream blood, guts, and cleavage film. OK, guts and blood yes, but gratuitous cleavage, no.

Final Destination was a nice surprise, an incredible thriller that far outshines the last *Scream* movie. But what else would you expect from a couple of guys who used to write for the *X-Files*? The film had convincing acting by the young cast and a fresh, original

story that does not involve a rubber mask.

Just to tease you, here's a synopsis. Alex Browning (Devon Sawa), is taking a trip to France with his high school French class. All the students are in the plane, ready for take-off when Alex experiences a frightening vision. He sees the plane, exactly how it is in real life, explode just seconds after leaving the ground. After a fight and scuffle, Alex and six others are forced off of the plane.

In the terminal, after getting thrown off the plane, Alex and his school-mates Billy (Seann William Scott), Tod (Chad E. Donella), Claire (Ali Larter), Carter (Kerr Smith), Terry (Amanda Detmer) and Ms. Lewton (Kristen Cloke), the

teacher, all watch as Alex's morbid premonition comes to life right in front of their eyes. They see the plane explode in the sky just outside of the terminal. What ensues is a twisted game with the Grim Reaper.

This is a supernatural movie that can be compared to classics like *The Exorcist* and *The Omen*. Trust me when I saw you'll never listen to "Rocky Mountain High" by John Denver the same way again.

Rating: ****

Movie-Goer's Rating System:

- ***** Brilliant, inspiring, a classic
- **** First Rate—worth your time and \$
- *** Flawed but had its moments
- ** Desperation Time
- * Someone please shoot the producer

April's Study Abroad Experiences

By April McClellan

Staff Writer

Well, when I first decided I wanted to study abroad, the first question was where I would go. I quickly came to the conclusion that it would be London, England. I immediately got started with the paperwork. In a matter of weeks, I was accepted to study in London, England at the American University in London. I was overwhelmed with emotions.

By the time it came down to my departure from Los Angeles to London, I began to feel butterflies form in my stomach. My mother, grandmother, cousin and aunt drove me to the airport. At the airport, I met up with a school-mate that was going to be studying abroad as well. Her name is Connie Moreno. We have known each other for about 2 1/2 years and we were going to be on the same flight.

Time was passing by slowly and our flight was delayed an hour and a half, but I was calm. Then, it was time to board the plane. I felt all of my emotions flooding my face like a Niagara Falls. I started to cry and I couldn't stop.

For the first time in my life I was going to be away from my family for four months. For the first time in my life I was leaving the state of California. And for the first time in my life I was going to ride on an airplane. Can you believe it? I am 20 years of age and I've never flown nor have I ever left the state of California. I was so blown

away that I almost wanted to stay behind and let the opportunity pass me by. But I didn't. I wiped away the tears, kissed my family good-bye, and proceeded down the terminal toward my destination.

The plane ride started off smooth, and then we were on our way. I felt a little uneasy and skeptical but soon I was relaxed and calm. I listened to music and watched TV to get my mind off of the plane crashing. I was petrified. The Alanis Morissette song "Ironic" was ringing in my ear and all I could think about was the plane crashing. I started to pray and God released those fears and turned them into positive energy. I played video games, had a couple drinks to relax me and off to sleep I went. There was a lot of turbulence and I was scared. It felt like I was home in the middle of an earthquake screaming for my mother to come and save me, but soon after, it was over.

The flight lasted about 10:30 hours long, but for the most part it was okay. We landed it at the Heathrow airport in London, and had to go through customs. It was pretty simple; I had no problems with my passport or anything. So now I was off to fight the crowd to find my luggage. I found the terminal where my luggage was, retrieved them and headed to the area where representatives were waiting for me.

After I got to my new apartment, I found out that I would be staying with Connie and another schoolmate from MSMC (Tyisha). We all greeted each other, settled in and went out on the town. I could tell that this experience was going to be interesting.

THE ANTI-OSCAR BALLOT

By Joycelyn Lee

Entertainment Editor

Do you agree with this year's Academy Award nominees? Do you really care what 5000 crusty voters are choosing as the year's "best" films? Are you looking for an alternative to the dry, old categories? *The Oracle* wants your vote on this year's ten most overlooked categories!

1. Actor we saw entirely too much of this year:

- Julianne Moore (*Ideal Husband*, *Cookie's Fortune*, *Magnolia*, *Map of the World*, *End of the Affair*)
- William Macy's (*Magnolia*, *Mystery Men*, *Happy Texas*)
- Julia Roberts (*Runaway Bride*, *Notting Hill*, *Erin Brockovich*)
- Johnny Depp (*Astronaut's Wife*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Ninth Gate*)
- Ben Affleck (*Boiler Room*, *Reindeer Games*, *Forces of Nature*, *Dogma*)

2. Cheesiest Thriller of the year

- Scream 3
- The Haunting
- Bats
- Blair Witch Project
- Arlington Road

3. Best Newcomer

- Wes Bentley (*American Beauty*)
- Leelee Sobieski, (*Eyes Wide Shut*)
- Chris Klein, (*Election*)
- Virginie LeYoden, (*The Beach*)
- Haley Joel Osment, (*The Sixth Sense*)

4. And they call this acting?

- Julia Roberts as a super-duper movie star in *Notting Hill*
- John Malkovich as himself in *Being John Malkovich*
- Rupert Everett as the gay friend in *Next Best Thing*
- Alanis Morissette as God in *Dogma*

5. Best Villain of the Year

- Darth Maul in the *The Phantom Menace: Star Wars Episode One*
- rest of the pack: need we say more?

6. Best Accent of the Year

- Julianne Moore in *End of the Affair*

- Jude Law in *The Talented Mr. Ripley*
- Janet McTeer in *Tumbleweeds*
- Michael Caine in *Cider House Rules*
- Jodie Foster/Chow Yun Fat in *Anna and the King*

8. Best movie not nominated for Best picture

- Princess Mononoke
- Magnolia
- The Matrix
- Toy Story 2

9. Worse-titled movie of the Year

- Julien-Donkey Boy
- Hideous Kinky
- Pokemon-the First Movie

10. Role in which actor should fire his/her agent

- Will Smith in *Wild, Wild West*
- Mathew Broderick in *Inspector Gadget*
- Bridget Fonda in *Lake Placid*
- Kevin Costner in anything

Scene and Heard: Top Stories in the Entertainment World

Compiled by Joycelyn Lee,

Entertainment Editor

EXPECTING Madonna is now 3 months pregnant with her second child. The father is "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" director Guy Ritchie. Is the Material Girl finally settling down? "It's a very serious relationship," she said. "I will say marriage may lie in the future." Well, if not, this will have to be the next best thing.

ENGAGED Country idol Vince Gill, 42, and pop gospel Amy Grant, 39, have confirmed they plan to marry March 10. It will be the 2nd marriage for both.

ROBBED: Sharon Stone's former housekeeper of seven years was charged with stealing \$300,000 worth of items (including jewelry) from Stone's Beverly Hills house some time before last month, according to Reuters. The 48-year-old Socorro Del Carmen Membrano pleaded innocent.

DISSED Jeffrey Wigand, the tobacco whistle-blower whose story the Oscar-nominated "The Insider" was based on, is blowing the whistle on the Academy Awards. According to the Hollywood Reporter, he wasn't invited to the ceremony and he wants a reason. Wigand reportedly hasn't heard from director Michael Mann or Disney, and when he called the Academy it said tickets were too scarce.

ANNOUNCEMENT Director Steven Spielberg will write and direct *A.I.*, a sci-fi epic that is reported to have been the pet project of the late Stanley Kubrick. Shooting begins July 10 for a summer 2001 release. Haley Joel Osment is said to be a contender for the lead. Spielberg, who passed on directing the first *Harry Potter* film, will then film the Tom Cruise sci-fi thriller *Minority Report* in April 2001.

UPCOMING MOVIES:

Just what are we getting ourselves into?!

- Jim Carrey gets into Highway Patrol garb in *Me, Myself and Irene*.
- Mena Suvari gets into the college scene in *Loser*.
- Alicia Silverstone gets into Shakespeare in *Love's Labors Lost*.
- Jennifer Aniston gets to play Mark Wahlberg's love interest in *Metal God*.
- Leelee Sobieski gets her first \$1 million paycheck in the new thriller *The Glass House*.
- Matt Damon and Will Smith get to show off golf moves in *The Legend of Bagger Vance*.
- Julianne Moore gets killer instincts playing FBI agent Clarice Starling in *Hannibal*, opposite Anthony Hopkins, in the role Jodie Foster originated in *Silence of the Lambs*.

-taken from EW, Movieline, and MGM weekly

NEW TO HOME VIDEO/DVD:

Stigmata: Patricia Arquette, Gabriel Byrne
Double Jeopardy: Ashley Judd and Tommy Lee Jones
Random Hearts: Harrison Ford, Kristin Scott Thomas
Drive Me Crazy: Melissa Joan Hart, Adrian Grenier

COMING TO THEATERS APRIL 7th:

RETURN TO ME

Return to Me is a romantic comedy pairing lonely widower Bob Rueland (David Duchovny) and the buoyant Grace Briggs (Minnie Driver). Although Bob and Grace are strangers at the start of the story, their lives are soon forever intertwined by fate. The impressive supporting cast includes Carroll O'Connor, Robert Loggia, James Belushi, Jocely Richardson, David Alan Grier and Bonnie Hunt.

In the spirit of *Return to Me*, *The Oracle* invites you to submit YOUR memorable dating stories. After all, doesn't everyone have them? We're sure you'd like to share them with the rest of the world and now's your chance. Submit your stories to oracle@msmc.la.edu, and you may see them printed in a future issue of *The Oracle*.

*note: all stories subject to editing.

Marilyn Chin Seduces Mount in Poetry Reading

By Julie Ahn

Staff Writer

"I'm not writing poetry to be on Oprah," Chinese American poetess Marilyn Mei Ling Chin saucily states, explaining that her poetic ambition is fueled not by money, but passion.

Though she might not want Oprah, after reading "How I Got That Name," a poem about her eastern and western roots, the turmoil within her family, and self-identification, it seems inevitable that Oprah will soon want Chin on her nice burgundy couch. For Chin's poems have an unmistakable rhythm to them, like the insistent beat of a Cantonese drum being played by American hands on American soil; they hypnotize with their beat.

Born in Hong Kong, and raised in Portland, Oregon, Marilyn Chin has written two books of poetry, with a third on the way. *The Phoenix Gone, The Terrace Empty* (1994) and *Dwarf Bamboo* (1987) have been received with literary fervor by the world of poets and critics, and embraced by readers alike.

A professor at San Diego State University in Creative Writing, the Mount was recently blessed with her dynamic presence. Chin came to speak and field questions at Professor Marcos Villatoro's poetry class on March 9, 2000. She participated in the newly vamped Writer's Series to recite her poems and offer her vast insights.

Chin, in person, looks like her poetry: a bold mish-mash of east and west. With shiny black hair swinging down her waist, a trendy leather jacket, and pink lipstick, she is the epitome of westernized, a woman of American culture, taking on the glossy appearance with great success.

But, with Marilyn, incidentally named after famed seductress Marilyn Monroe, is also Mei Lin. When she laughs, her eyes crinkle into crescent half moons and her voice yields a trace of a Chinese enunciation.

Her apparent ease with both her ethnic roots and American upbringing are evident, and she intensely proclaims, "My poetry is this struggle between Chinese and Western culture...but I myself celebrate both sides and I've discovered that I'm richer for it. I am living a life of double consciousness."

Growing up, Chin laughingly recalls she and her sister were both avid readers. Her sister would read a "trashy novel a day." Later, her own tastes became a bit more refined as she explored the world of Dickens, Shakespeare, and more recently, Chinese poets, such as Tufu from the Tong Dynasty, a far cry from Harlequin romances.

After graduating from Stanford, she started to feel the calling for poetry and began to dabble in the field, she submitted

poems to small literary journals, wrapped her poems together in her first book, then a second, and then published an Asian American anthology. Modestly, Chin dedicates her success to "moments of luckiness...it's like someone comes down to hand you a gift and you just have to run with it." That, she has.

Known as not just an American poet, but a Chinese-American one, she does not mind the distinction. "I don't write about Chinese-Americans because I'm egocentric, but because I want to write what I know...I can't write [about being] an Anglo male or a blonde because my past is different from theirs...it would be false."

Poetry, to Chin is not about inhabiting the bodies of other characters, but it comes from her own experiences, her family, and her tragedies. The poem, "How I got that name" took Chin two years to write and though she admits it's one of her favorites, Chin states, "I can't really pick a favorite poem, it's like picking your favorite child, impossible!"

The poem offers a voyeuristic glimpse into Chin's journey to America, including the bitter revelation that her father, whom she calls a "tomcat rogue," in the poem, left her mother for an American woman, and herself had two failed marriages. In the poem, Chin also uses her name as a metaphor for the problem in being bred in Hong Kong but migrating and growing up in America.

She scathingly writes how her father, "...obsessed with a bombshell bond transliterated Mei Ling to Marilyn...my mother couldn't pronounce the 'r.' She dubbed me 'Numba' one female offshoot for brevity." Her poem is tinged with this recurring tension between her ethnic background and the "better life," her family has chosen for her.

Though many Asian cultures are usually quite hushed about their family secrets, Chin likes to bring out the demons in hopes that her poetry is better for it. But, that candid and sometimes, harsh retelling of her life has some naysayers. "People ask me why I bitch in my poetry. While others call it bitching or complaining, I say bitching is a part of our voice...poets must tell the truth and I can't write truthful poetry if I'm pretending that nothing's wrong," Chin declares.

Her recitation of her poem, "How I got that Name" is similarly honest as it shows her apparent passion for both Chinese and American culture. Her reading is mixed in with some spicy Chinese sass and some western flair, as her love of gangster rap seems to influence her reading.

She accentuates words with an index finger wagging in crazy figure eights and her head bobs with double emphasis. Every once in a while, she will shift her black-framed glasses back toward the bridge of her nose with an understated push

of her fingers, but then changes her mind when her glasses fall as she drops her face low to show you the black pools of her eyes. Her voice lowers to the hiss of a snake and then rises dramatically to the roar of a white tiger.

Chin believes that her audience isn't just made up of Chinese Americans or even Asian Americans, but that every nationality can appreciate her poems. "There is universal in the personal," Chin says. "People can identify with the speaker in poetry because we all have family problems...we all see ourselves as part of a massive cultural movement. It speaks for Marilyn Mei Lin Chin and it speaks for other Asian Americans, and other American identities."

Ultimately, though, what Chin feels is driving her need to write poetry, underneath her love of words and desire to tell her stories, is her mother. "Why do I write? The truth is this: I write to make things right with my mother. My mother died at 62...depressed and not eating after my father left...the daughter in me just wants to make things right by speaking the truth," Chin relates.

Chin's intensity and fearlessness is overwhelming, and unique. She is not ashamed of her upbringing, but revels in her dual identities, which translates into her poetry. But while her poems are distinctive, her method of writing is unmistakably familiar to all of us. She reveals that while it is a good idea to devote some hours a day to writing poetry, she "forgives herself" for not being able to do that when teaching.

However, like many struggling writers and artists in the world, she used to force herself to produce something even when there was no inspiration behind it. "Nothing's scarier than a blank page," she admits. But, Chin realizes that her best work would come when, as she lyrically puts it, "the muse is one fire."

Another bit of timber she uses to ignite her poetic flame, is reading. Chin reads for inspiration and stimulation. But, wherever she goes, she never forgets her little notebook to jot down ideas and encourages budding writers to do the same.

In the end, Chin knows her work will survive her. "I hope some geeky Chinese scholar who's majoring in like engineering, will recover my 'bones' by picking up one of my poems and read me...I only want my voice to be kept alive."

Mai Lin Chin is extraordinary at embracing her Chinese heritage, speaking Chinese and reading Chinese authors, while Marilyn loves the Western music of gangster rap, punk rock, and Yo-Yo Ma. She is an eclectic mix of east and west. Ironically the father that named and left her would be proud. Like the baby-voiced temptress Monroe, who seduced all with her body,, Chin has also succeeded in her power to seduce with poetry. For Chin, words, not diamonds, are a girl's best friend.



The Oracle

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YSOP Brings Community Together in Search for Peace

By Joan Fletcher

Editor

After months of preparation and extensive publicity, the vision of Sr. Judy Molosky took form on April 8, 2000 at the Doheny campus. They Youth Summit on Peace (YSOP, pronounced "Wise Up!") included a speech by the famed Sr. Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, workshops by Mount students and community representatives, and fun activities such as a deejay, a band and a group called the Street Poets.

When questioned about the origins of the event, Molosky replies "The year 2000 is significant to Christians, particularly Catholics. The Hebrew scripture understanding of 'jubilee' is about forgiveness of debt and that was the inspiration for this event about forgiveness and peace. So, Campus Ministry of Doheny and the Center for Urban Partnership decided to do something about forgiveness."

The event was born. Sprung from these notions of forgiveness and love, it began to take shape, emphasizing the need to understand where the other party is coming from. Workshops included cultural presentations as well as talks by the police department, who is currently sur-

rounded in the controversy involving the Rampart division of the LAPD.

In order to spread their message of peace and forgiveness, the team of 25 Chalon and Doheny students headed by Molosky invited many inner city high school students to attend the event. Around a hundred students chose to attend.

Sr. Molosky hoped these students would gain some important knowledge through the days events which would lead to thoughts of tolerance. She hoped they would gain "an awareness for each of us about how we can, on an individual level, gain an understanding of the power of one person to bring about peace. The theme is 'Understanding plus Forgiveness equals Peace.'"

"Greater understanding of our differences and the power of forgiveness that each of us brings leads to peace and love. This can bring change in our own homes and extend out to mean a more peaceful neighborhood and a more peaceful Los Angeles."

One special group of student presenters were organized by Dr. Carla Bartlett of the Education Department. Bartlett saw the event as an important opportunity for students in her Cultural Diversity class

(EDU 152/252) to present and apply the knowledge they gained through a fieldwork study of a particular culture group.

Molosky was very happy with the turn-out. Speaking from the view of a student presenter, third year student Anita Solis says "YSOP was a good try, but like every first event, it had the usual things messing up right before it began to start. There was a lot of rushing on the final day."

Solis added that she was "a little disappointed with the lack of high school students. A lot of preparation went into it, which did me good, but I wasn't able to share it with anyone else."

Solis expresses the sentiments of many student presenters who, while satisfied with the event and its planning, were disappointed at the low turn-out in some of the classrooms. Some groups found they had as few as two students in their workshop. Nevertheless, those who attended seemed to gain something from the experience.

"I think there was a lower turn-out because it was on a Saturday," Solis



Courtesy of www.msme.la.edu

The Street Poets, all formerly incarcerated youths, perform poetry on stage.

muses. "If you give students an option to go on a weekday and they get out of class, they'll do it, but on a weekend, they're less likely to come."

***Liz Zima, Director of Annual Giving, contributed to this article.*

Tuition Forum Raises More Questions Than Answers

By Julie Ahn

Staff Writer

As tuition costs increase, students who are self-reliant or come from low-income families, struggle to keep their noses above water. To give voice to their complaints for increased costs, or suggestions to keep tuition in check, students gathered on April 4 in the campus center at the first Tuition Forum, part of a series of forums that have taken place since 1999.

Administrators such as Dr. Mari Wadsworth, Dr. Jane Lingua, Katy Murphy, Jim Whittaker, and Sister Mary Williams led the event, and were clearly sympathetic to student's concerns, but remained firm about the necessity of raising tuition.

The student's unleashed a barrage of questions, with one of the first issues about the ubiquitous technology fee, students demanded to know the details. Lingua explained the new fee as inherent in what technology means. "Technology has gotten to be expensive because just when you think you're finished, there's always more to do." Expanding, she stated, "The students are getting more for their money...many students have to pay for every time you do anything, print, use the computer, go on the internet. This way it works out better." Lingua also reassured students that the third rate computers in the residence halls would also be replaced and upgraded, with the knowledge of the increase in problems the computer and printers have been causing.

First year student Amanda Molina provided the most somber note of the forum with an extensive letter she read from, surmising her family situation and lack of finances necessary to pay the yearly tuition hikes. The cause of the high tuition, she noted, seemed to be coming mostly from room and board fees and proposed room and board control. "For the residents who already live in dorms, the control should come with students not having to pay increased tuition...the cost would only apply to incoming freshman or students new to the dorms." A choke caught her throat, as she pleaded for the school to consider the strain on students. "If you keep increasing my costs and decreasing my financial aid, I will not be able to come here on my own."

Lingua expressed compassion, but rejected the room and board control idea only because, "Someone will pay for increased utility fees. It's either all students paying equally or the incoming class paying for everyone's upkeep, which isn't fair either."

Parking was another topic brought up, as students worried about the fifty-dollar addition to parking permits for the 2000-01 school year. Sophomore senators Pia and Valorie Ocampo raised the suggestion to limit the number of permits by letting upperclassmen buy their permits first, and then the next highest class successively. Lingua explained that parking limits are not being restricted as of now so as not to impede any student's opportunity to work off campus or make it even more difficult

to attend the Mount. She also noted that the increased parking costs are to cover the costs of parking operations and across the board costs of commuters, which was not to discourage people from buying parking permits.

Murphy also put her two cents in about the unlimited number of parking permits available. "We can compare ourselves to LMU or UCLA, but the truth is we're not like those schools...we're special and we need to balance our mission with financial efficiency so we don't cut anyone off...our priority is undergraduate education," she stated. However, third year Kim Tran doesn't understand the logic behind the parking rationale. Like many students, she believes permits should be limited to the number of spots available.

Murphy also noted the importance of necessity over want, when students expressed requests for amenities of dorm life, such as cable and call waiting for telephones. "All of use would love to drive great cars, but we can't and that's life...we can't have it all. Is it closets, cable, air conditioning or what," she challenges. But, sophomore Claudia Guerra resents the implication that students are asking for too much. "I really think that we are asking for just the standard."

Sophomore Senators Pia and Valorie Ocampo seemed to feel the line between security and strictness of the Mount's rules have been crossed creating an unsafe campus. The motivation for the complaint came mainly from the limited number of access doors after 10:00 p.m. "If I park by

the pool area and someone's about to attack me, I have to take the long way to the access doors...I think the Brady doors should also be kept open," she reasoned. Students chuckled as Maria Ochoa seconded the necessity of opening Brady doors, sharing that coyotes had chased her and friends late at night, and were forced to take a longer route to the only available doors open. Midst titters, Ochoa protested, "It's not funny. It was dangerous and scary!"

Wadsworth turned down the idea saying that opening the Brady as an access door would be disruptive to students who live close to the doors, with students coming in at all hours of the night. But she pointed out that security guards are willing to escort students to any place on campus at any time. Although this doesn't do much for students in emergency situations who don't have time to get to a guard, which might take more time than getting to the access doors themselves, students acquiesced to Wadsworth's response.

A small triumph on student's part was the implementation of an on campus phone in the residence halls, that would only make intercampus calls, students argued was important. But, third year Dana Cohn is discouraged as to the real success of the forum. "I know it's great that we have a tuition forum and that administrators are willing to listen, but...I wish there was a bigger turnout, and also it just seems like the administrators weren't there to really take our comments seriously, but just [to] defend."

Inside:

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Meet Mindi Abair, an
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Reviewing Technology at the Mount

By Janyse De La Cruz

Staff Writer

On February 24 and April 4, the Office of Information Technologies (OIT) sponsored Technology Forums on the Chalon and Doheny campuses, respectively. The purpose and goal of these forums were to give all students the opportunity to voice their technological concerns and suggestions, so that OIT would be able to improve their services for the upcoming year.

We live in an increasingly fast-paced, computerized world and in order to stay ahead we need the computer know-how to compete for professional careers. OIT understands how important computer training and availability is to students, and they have been doing their best to cater to the needs of all students, residents and commuters alike.

One topic that was brought up by Chalon students concerned the residential computer labs. They noted that the computers operated slowly and frequently froze. And they also inquired when the computer lab in Carondelet would be opened.

In response, OIT staff members explained that there are several factors that could cause the computers to operate slowly and freeze. The hard drive may be near capacity because there is not enough memory due to the large number of unnecessary temporary and Internet files saved on the hard drive. There may be several applications running on the computer at the same time. Another explanation could be that the application running has crashed and the computer needs to be rebooted. In addition, a computer could freeze if the e-mail server was rebooted or if the computer lost connection with the server

or the network.

In regards to the need for a computer lab in Carondelet, the OIT staff members said that once the funds needed to purchase the necessary furniture and equipment are made available, the lab will be open to the students. The current estimated opening date is Fall 2000.

Residents on the Doheny campus also expressed the need for 24-hour computer labs in the dormitories. They said that although there are several computer labs on campus, including the one in the library, they needed to have more access to computers equipped with printers and the Internet in the student housing.

OIT responded by saying that one of their goals for the years to come is to equip every house with a computer, Internet access and a printer. They would also like to install several computers and a printer in the McIntyre Residence Hall once the funds become available.

Other topics that were discussed included OIT-sponsored computer training sessions, problems with the GroupWise (e-mail) Program, telephone services, and the possibility of requiring all students to have a laptop.

OIT has held Microsoft Word and GroupWise workshops in the past. They encourage students who would like to receive training in these programs or other computer operations such as web page design, to contact the Help Desk at x4210 and put in a request for a computer training session.

OIT also wanted to let students know that the GroupWise e-mail system is currently set up to automatically delete messages that are two weeks or older to prevent the system from overloading. They are, however, trying

to reset this time period to 4 to 6 months. Furthermore, the staff suggested that if students are having problems accessing their e-mail accounts at around 7:00 p.m., which is a peak time for faculty, staff and students, they should try to log on at a different time.

Have you ever wondered why students are not allowed to purchase their own telephones? OIT explained that if students use phones that are not compatible to the current phone system it may damage the phone lines or create problems with the system itself. They also said that upon renewal of the contract with the vendor such features as call waiting, speed dialing, and redialing may be provided.

The staff also brought up the possibility of requiring all students to have a laptop and asked the students present if they would support it and if they would be willing to pay for a laptop if the cost was added to tuition. Requiring the use of laptops would promote computer literacy and enable more students to enroll in classes where the enrollment is capped according to computer availability.

These are just a few of the issues discussed, but if you would like to see a full copy of the topics covered, questions posed and responses given at the forum you can log on to:

• http://www.msmc.la.edu/Oit/Documents/Chalon_Student_Technology_Forum.htm

or

• http://www.msmc.la.edu/Oit/Documents/Doheny_Student_Technology_Forum.htm

OIT is planning to sponsor a Technology Student Forum each year on each campus. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns that need to be addressed, attend the forum next year and let your voice be heard.

First Impressions of Admitted Students

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

Admitted Students Day was on April 9, 2000. In order to research how prospective students view our college, *The Oracle* polled them for their opinions on the Mount as they visited the club tables. Here's what they had to say:

• "I really like the Mount. It is a beautiful campus. The students are the friendliest I've met in my college search, and the administrators are very helpful." —Julie

• "It's a gorgeous friendly, well-run campus, a place I can definitely see myself coming to and receiving a great education." —Jessica

• "It's beautiful and it seems to be fun and great here. Thanks for picking me [to attend]." —Nancy

• "It seems like a nice college, that gives very good resource to receive a good education. I am looking forward to attending." —Bianca

• "I think it's a wonderful community that I would enjoy to live in. I think it will prepare me in my future decisions and will enrich me as a woman." —Regina

• "Good Psych Department!" —Susan

• "Everyone here is extremely friendly. I feel like I have met them before." —Kristen

• "...A nice sense of community" —Alicia Garcia

• "The college is competitive and I am looking forward to a great experience at the Mount." —Ibbet

• "I love the campus and the personal, helpful staff." —Adriana

• "I like the closeness of the students." —Cassie

• "Beautiful" —Angeliquex

• "Great campus! I love it! Where [the] guys at?! Oh, [it is] LA... Let's go clubbing!" —Rianna

• "Wonderful campus! Very clean, students are very friendly." —Cyril

• "I feel that I will have the personal attention. I'm looking for from my professors." —Gabriela

• "I can see the connection all the students have with each other, and it is real welcoming." —Stefanie

• "Small, friendly. Unlike the big university you get a feeling that everybody knows each other. A family oriented environment." —Jessica

Thank you to the students who visited the Mount on Admitted Students Day. We welcome you with open arms and great expectations for your college career at the Mount.

THE ORACLE

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Breast Cancer... It Can Happen To You

Many believe that it does not run in their families or that they are two young to get it. Two Breast Cancer survivors recently visited campus to set the facts straight. On Wednesday April 12th in the Chalon Lecture Hall, the two survivors shared their stories to increase awareness of the disease.

Anne Henderson is a volunteer as a "Breast Buddy" with the Win ABC (Win Against Breast Cancer) organization which provides diagnosed women with survivors who give support and guidance.

Henderson found a lump while living in Australia. Upon return to the United States, she found that she had breast cancer. Within six months, possibly due to the increase in hormones with birth control, which has not been clinically proven, she was diagnosed with Stage 4 Breast Cancer, the worst possible. She had to undergo chemotherapy, stem cell treatment (redistribution of platelets in order for the blood cells to be restored), and a mastectomy (to be absolutely safe). She is now four years clean at age 30.

Karen Van Kirk is the Director of Team Survivor California, and was treated for breast cancer 3 years ago, at age 33. She found out she had breast cancer when she decided to get a ma-

Warning Signs:

- A hard lump or thickening
- Swelling or redness
- Change in Size
- Scaliness of nipple
- Change in the nipple
- Skin Dimpling
- Odd nipple discharge

mogram after finding a weird lump in her breast.

She, like many young women, was turned away by her doctor and later had a biopsy. A small tumor

was found. She had a lumpectomy and radiation therapy to cure the breast cancer. After telling their stories, Henderson and Kirk provided useful facts about reduction of risks, detection, causes and treatment.

Many events in the LA area are put on to sponsor Breast Cancer Awareness. Two well-known events are the Avon Breast Cancer 3-day Breast walk and the Revlon Run/Walk.

The Avon Breast Cancer 3-day walk will take place on October 27-29 2000 between Santa Barbara and Malibu, 60 miles. For more information call (310) 450-5015.

The Revlon Run/Walk is set to start at 7am on Saturday May 13th. For just \$25 dollars you can register to run or walk. After April 28, the cost is \$30. Dustin Hoffman, star of *Rainman* and *Tootsie* will be the host. The spokeswomen include Cindy Crawford, Salma Crawford, and Melanie Griffith.

To find out more about breast cancer facts and events, visit the American Cancer Society website at cancer.org, or call 1-800-I'm-Aware.

By Maya Gaddie
Assistant Editor

Facts and Statistics:

- Between the age 20 and 30 the probability of developing Breast Cancer jumps from 1 out of 2200 to 1 out of 25.
- All women are at risk.
- Fruits, vegetables, and grain, and a regular exercise can reduce risks.
- Regular mammograms, clinical breast exams, or self-breast exams also reduce risks.

Suzi's World: The Out-of-State Blues!

By Suzi Schroeder

Staff Writer

I am one the few out of area students. We are the ones always around on weekends; we are the ones who store things over the summer; we are the ones who seem to grumble the most about transportation. Granted, Phoenix is closer than Baltimore, but is far away nevertheless. True, it is in theory, possible for me to go home every weekend, it's only a six hour drive, but the Pixmobile would not appreciate it, and with current gas prices, neither would my wallet.

Phoenix may be my point of origin, but the Mount has become my home. When I was a wide-eyed first year, one student, when I asked where she was from, replied "here." At first I had trouble grasping that concept, how could the Mount be someone's home? But now, I know exactly where she was coming from.

I miss my family, and would have gladly stayed longer in Europe if I had the chance, but the Mount is comfortable, like your father's old, worn flannel shirt. It's the place I have spent countless weekends and holidays, even a summer. I love my hometown, but due to many factors I spend most of my time here.

It can be hard being from out of the area. Sometimes I long to go back to my family, to eat home-cooked food and bake cookies, to tease my brothers and get pushed into the swimming pool for my efforts. I am fortunate, it is easier for me to go home for weddings or holidays than some. I have friends who only can go home for Christmas break, and maybe spring break.

Southwest airlines has become my friend and I rack up the frequent flyer miles, and case the Internet for cheap

fares. But the weekends can sometimes be lonely, and one spring break I didn't see a soul for days. Sure, it was my choice to stay, but sometimes it's the only choice available.

It's not easy. Holidays can be hard when there's no food available, especially where there's no transportation. Summers aren't that easy either. I bought the Pixy because there was no other way for me to get off campus.

I am lucky, some out-of-staters can't bring their car here, and it doesn't always make sense to buy one here. I suppose the lack of food and transportation is an incentive to go "home," but what if the Mount is your home? It's not like everyone is willing to deliver to the Mount, and it's not always feasible to go home with friends.

Storage is also a problem. There is a limit of what you can store, which is a good thing, however the things I most need to store, like my fridge, my chair, and bicycle are not allowed. It's not always that easy to find people to babysit your stuff. (I don't need to store my clothes, I take those home with me.)

One of my friends has to put things in off campus storage every summer, which costs her about \$400. Not being able to store things while you're studying abroad is also a problem. Sure I could ask people to store things for me, but once again, the things I need to store are not allowed in storage.

Moving out is hard too. I would like to see my friends graduate. Move-out is on Friday and graduation is on Monday (It's sort of hard to commute back for that night). If you're graduating you have to be out by 11 am that Tuesday. It's not that practical if you live far away, especially if friends and family have trekked out to see you graduate.

I never thought I'd find myself in a position where I really couldn't go back

to Phoenix. Usually I choose to stay here, but this summer it is my only choice. The Mount is the only place in L.A. that I know, and, even though it is a good deal in comparison to area rental prices, it may be more than I can afford to stay here over the summer.

I've checked out other options, but because of my work/summer school schedule, they just don't work. It didn't make me feel any better to read the part about students not meeting financial obligations will have to move off campus.

There are hefty discounts offered if you work on campus, but unfortunately, all of those jobs seem to be offered during normal working hours, and I can't manage that.

I understand that this is a business, I understand that this is the real world and people get evicted. I understand that living, especially in L.A. is expensive. But it doesn't make me feel any better. It just seems that the needs of out-of-state students are not met as they could be.

I know we are a small school, with fewer resources than big colleges, but part of me still thinks that something can be done, little things like more convenient transportation, later move out dates, and more storage privileges.

The Mount lured me away from the town I knew, it brought me to the big bad city where things were strange and different. I don't regret my move to L.A., not in the least. I love the Mount dearly and am grateful for all the opportunities I have gotten here. It just is difficult sometimes for me and my out of state friends.

So, if you hear someone loudly singing the out-of-state-blues, slightly off key, that will be me, setting up my pup tent in the circle, along with my big green chair.

American Patriotism

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

What is it about America that gives Americans pride? Why do we "know" our country is the best? Although many Americans visit other countries, most never desire to move. Why? It seems within our society's culture there are many hidden prejudices. We ramble about cultural issues, gender issues, weight, homosexuality, and other issues that are labeled as "politically correct" opinions and responses. In health issues such as AIDS many Americans believe it was imported from another country. However, like the Americans, citizens of other countries have quite a different perspective.

Recently, while reading an article for an English class, I discovered that many people from other countries believe that Americans created AIDS in a laboratory and sent it to Africa as a form of warfare, which later spread to other countries. This different view of the same issue supports my belief that American Patriotism is a form of prejudice within itself, against people of other cultures, particularly against those who live in other countries.

The majority of Americans, regardless of ethnic identity, believe the story that pins the origin of AIDS in Africa. Why? Through our cultures, we learn about bias and hatred from the time we are born. Unaware, we form impressions in our minds.

Advertisements that are used in many popular magazines and on television influence our daily lives with implied undertones. We see these ads in everyday life and do not realize that they provide guidelines for societal rules and make an impact on our individual decisions. Words used in everyday language also take part in fogging our paths to a clear understanding of the world that surrounds us.

Next time you judge anything while watching television or walking down the street, take time out and ask yourself, "What am I prejudiced of and why?" Your answer will surprise you.

Who Wants to Be A Millionaire? Who Cares?

By Claudia Almanza

Special Features Editor

As I was flipping the channels one evening, I started noticing the TV show line up. "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," "Making of a Band", and many other programs that show human emotion on the brink of destruction or mere chaos. Society has become morbid, watching people on the verge of a nervous breakdown and enjoying it! Quite frankly, I'm scared for what the future holds.

Television executives know this, that's why ABC is cashing in on a lot of money, as well as other TV networks. On "...Millionaire" contestants test their knowledge in hopes of winning a million dollars. We see them jump for joy when they win and see their disappointment when they lose. Imagine someone informing you "you almost have a million dollars" and in less than ten seconds you lose it all!

Another show that is big with viewers is "GREED." This show is simply wrong! What happened to solidarity? For those who haven't seen it, let me tell you what it's about. It starts off with a group of people working together. Then, when they have accomplished the tasks, they eliminate each other to get an opportunity to get the prize. The prize isn't even guaranteed. Talk about being brutal.

I know life is about competing with one another to get what you want,

but this is more like back-stabbing and people like it. That is why they keep on watching. The same goes for the new series called "Making of a Band." The creators and directors of MTV's "Real World" are a part of this project, along with the infamous Lou Pearlman. More than 2000 hopeful souls auditioned to be a part of new boy band. Out of those thousands, only 25 are chosen, and from those 25, only eight remain. Those eight know only five will be in the band.

All of this is recorded as the plot unfolds. We see them struggle, fight, smile, and cry. It's a modern day documentary with a soap opera twist. We get to hear the comments their vocal coach, choreographer, and Pearlman make about them before they do. The eight guys know that if they mess up, their dream of becoming the next Backstreet Boy will never be.

Shows like these are created because they know people watch. My question is, "why DO people watch?" Don't we all have enough drama in our lives to make our own show? I believe so, especially us, college students. I know it is fascinating to watch conflict on TV because it doesn't involve us, but it does involve others. We need to stop this cycle of destruction. We need to be sane ones again. So if you are tantalized to watch someone be "stepped on" or a bit of drama, just remember how painful your days can be and flip the channel.

Graduating With Limitations

By Selene Sandoval
and Emily Rose Chua

Graduating Seniors

After four years of slaving away to get our degree, we have finally arrived...Graduation! It is a time when you see all your hard work has finally paid off, a time that symbolizes achievement. It's an occasion you want to share with everyone, especially your family and friends who have supported you in every possible way. So, here you are, ready to get your tickets for the Shrine...

But wait! Your family can't go for free if it is larger than four people. Each senior is granted only four free tickets for graduation. Otherwise, if your family consists of more than four people, you're forced to pay \$2 for each additional ticket. It doesn't end there either. You're limited to 16 tickets total (the number was recently increased from 10). What about the rest of our family and friends? That is the dilemma of many seniors this year.

The first problem with this new ticket system is that it is unfair. Those that graduated in past years at the Shrine were able to receive 10 tickets automatically, for free. If the senior needed any more tickets and if there were still tickets available, they were given to the senior free of charge. Why the change now?

Our second problem lies in the cost we are charged. You mean to tell us that if a graduating senior wants to invite more than four people to graduation, such as siblings and grandparents, they will be charged \$2 for tickets. We never imagined we would have to pay for our family members to see us graduate.

The third problem is the number of tickets

we are ultimately limited to. If we need more than 16 tickets, there is no possible way to know if we are guaranteed extra tickets. So, for those family members (aunts, uncles, and cousins) or friends who are planning to travel to our graduation, there is no way to assure them their trip will be worth it.

We do not know if we are going to get the extra tickets and so these to-be-invited guests will be left in limbo, unsure of whether to request vacation time early, even if they may not get to go. On the other hand, they could just wait until we found out if we got the extra tickets...

However, by the time we find out if there are extra tickets available to invite those family members, they may be unable to plan their vacation or book their flights. In addition, their vacation time may not get approved at such short notice.

A fourth problem with the new limited ticket process is that does not fit with the graduation packages we are offered. For seniors that ordered graduation announcements (Basic Package #1), it doesn't make sense to have a package which offers 25 personalized graduation announcements if you're only guaranteed 16 tickets. Even then, those 16 tickets are probably going to be reserved for immediate family. It's almost a waste to order announcements.

Moving graduation to the Shrine Auditorium was meant to be a solution to the limited space available at the Mount. Last year, empty seats could be found at the Shrine. Seniors weren't charged for tickets. There wasn't a limit on the number of people who could watch them at this special event. So why are we graduating with limitations?

Log On...to the MSMC Website

By Janyse Dela Cruz

Staff Writer

Every day, hundreds of Mount students, staff, and faculty members log on to the Mount's web site to check their e-mail without so much as a second glance at all the informational links at their disposal.

Aside from the weekly menus posted by the Food Service staff, the Alumnae e-mail directory that dates back to the Class of 1945, the biographies and autobiographies of administrators, staff, and professors, and the OIT Help Desk request link on-line, the Mount community has access to the award winning telecommunications site and to the MSMC student personal web pages.

During the entire month of March 2000, the Association of Telecommunications Professionals in Higher Education (ACUTA) recognized Diana Marticorena and Francis Salandanan of the Telecommunications Office, for their exemplary construction of the MSMC Telecommunications web site (www.msme.la.edu/telecom).

According to Marianne Chitwood, the chair of ACUTA's Web Site Recognition Subcommittee, their site was selected for "ease of navigation, functionality, and as a good example of a small school that has effectively maximized resources." Their site provides comprehensive links to the telephone staff directory, the telephone policies, and the instructions for setting up and accessing mailboxes.

Another one of the many interesting web pages linked to MSMC's homepage is the student web pages. MSMC encourages all students to create or link their own personal web page on to the Mount St. Mary's web site. The personal web pages not only allow the participating students to

share their life experiences with their fellow classmates, but they also give prospective students the opportunity to see an insider's view of the "whole college experience" and life at the Mount.

When asked why she decided to post her web page, Natalie Priester replied, "Honestly, I mainly wanted to show off. I love to share my life with everyone. Ask anyone who knows me—I talk too much! I also wanted to share my experiences at the Mount with outside people, especially prospective students."

Priester knows first hand how influential the student web pages can be. One day, a prospective student approached her in the cafeteria, saying that her web site was the main reason why she decided to set up an appointment with the Admissions Office to take a tour around the campus. Apparently, Priester's web site had such a positive impact on her that she has decided to attend the Mount in the fall.

Priester also said, "I think everyone at the Mount should have a web page. I know a lot of students who would love to create one, but don't know how. I think web page building programs, like Geocities, make page building simple enough for anyone to do it. Maybe the Mount should offer courses or training sessions for building web pages. Also, providing scanners for student use would encourage others to create web pages."

Vanessa Sevilla, a first year student, said that the student web pages were "fun, interesting, and good to look at because they are all unique and have their own personalities."

These sites and much more can be found on the Mount St. Mary's web site. Next time you log on to check your e-mail take a few minutes and browse through all the great informational web pages that are available.

Internship Opportunities

By Vianney Vasquez

Doheny Editor

As summer approaches and students look for summer work, a familiar word comes to the lips of many...internships.

What are these internships and where do you get them? According to Director of Career Planning Monica Lond, "Internships are work experience opportunities for students. By participating in an internship a student gains valuable work experience, increases their skills (oral and written communication, organizational skills, etc.), and learns more about a particular field."

Who needs an internship? Lond says "currently, only Business Administration and Sociology (majors) require internships." In her opinion however, "every student should participate in at least one internship experience prior to graduation. Internships are an important part of an individual's career planning process. Not only do students gain work experience, but they learn what they want or don't want to do in regards to their future career."

Sure, it sounds like a good idea, but are there requirements to obtain one? Lond says, "since an internship is considered a trainee type of position, generally there are few requirements. Many companies and organizations prefer to hire students with junior and senior class standing. In addition, many companies may have

a G.P.A. requirement and target their internships towards a specific major or ethnic group. Internships can either be paid or unpaid. Sometimes organizations require that the students receive course credit in order to participate..."

If you have decided that you want to find a suitable internship for yourself, Monica suggests a visit to the Career Center, saying they "maintain an internship database called Volunteer Works which list over 300 internship opportunities... [They also] download internship opportunities from JobTrak (an on-line job listing service) on a daily basis."

To further aid students, the Career Center has binders, books, directories and web addresses available for student use.

Lastly, Lond says, "before applying for an internship, students should have a resume and cover letter ready. I am available to meet with students to discuss their career goals and the type of internship they are looking for, as well as, help them with writing their resume and cover letter. In order to help students prepare for an interview, I am more than happy to conduct a mock interview with them."

"Students should be encouraged to visit the Career Center as early as possible in their college career to discuss their career plans and goals. Participating in an internship experience is just one part of this process."

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LA's Hidden Gem... The Mount

By Vianney Vasquez

Staff Writer

Last semester, 24 History and Political Science majors enrolled in a required course called Research Methodology, HIS/POL 101. When they embarked on this journey, they could not imagine what awaited them.

The college catalog describes the class as "an examination of modern research and writing methods emphasizing needed skills in preparing research papers."

Based on this description, many students expected to learn how to do research and write a major paper or a few small ones. However, that is not the task the professor had in mind. These students would be applying the skills they learned in a very special project.

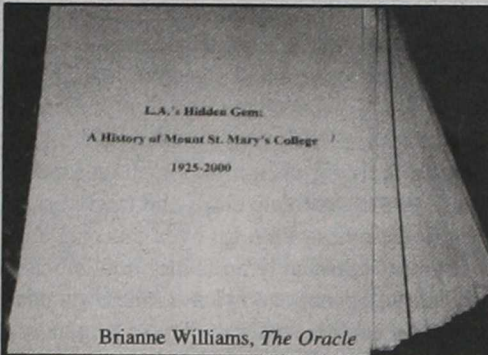
As many might already know, the year 2000 marks the 75th anniversary of the college. This is a time when special events are being held to celebrate the college's birthday. As Assistant Professor of History Dr. Fred Simonelli prepared to instruct this course he remembered this information.

He says, "As I prepared... I realized that the college's 75th anniversary in 2000 presented a great opportunity to use ... as the focus for our research. By doing this we would study research methods through the vehicle of a common class project that had both relevance and meaning to the students."

Dr. Simonelli planned to use this celebration as the topic of his class' research. With the gathered research, the students would write a book on the last 25 years of the Mount's history to supplement a previous volume written by Sister Germaine that covered the first 50 years.

For the students, this was very exiting as well as overwhelming. Fourth year student Monica Fuentes says that her first thought was, "Oh no! Me write a book? But I did not want to leave the class because it was something new, and I knew it would make me grow."

Adrianna Salazar adds, "I was



The manuscript of the book created by the HIS/POL 101 class of the Fall of 1999.

actually excited that I wasn't going to write a research paper. For some reason writing a chapter made my efforts feel more productive."

The class was very demanding. Students had to do massive research on faculty, curriculum, alums, campus growth, finance and donors, student life, campus organizations, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and religion and spirituality at the Mount.

After the research was done, students had to narrow the information they would be using for the book. The information was overwhelming and it was not easy selecting the most important. Salazar agrees, saying "I researched Student Life, and it was a difficult task."

The next step was the writing. It was going to be done in groups. Some of the groups encountered problems since they could not find a common

time to meet, but in the end the writing was completed.

The last phase of the project was the editing. There was a group assigned to manage the job. Finally, the end of the grueling semester arrived, and the class was over. Students breathed sighs of relief because they could finally relax. They had worked hard the entire semester and now in their hands they held the book they had written.

Now, a few months later, Simonelli and the students see what a positive experience this was. He admits, "I was impressed with the skill and determination of the students in the class and very gratified at the enthusiasm they brought to the project... This course differed from the traditional instructional format, but I believe that trying new approaches to learning are worth the risks because they can open students' minds to new ways of looking at the material and allow them to see it in new ways."

As for Salazar, she praises Simonelli, saying "it was an effective learning method. As a graduating senior I feel like I have somehow done something that will remain with the college."

Monica Fuentes is thrilled that she can apply the research skills she learned in HIS/POL 101 in her other courses and as well as outside jobs.

The book has not yet been published. Dr. Simonelli says, "I'm putting finishing editorial touches on the book-length manuscript that resulted from the class's work. When that is complete I'll pass the manuscript on to the college's 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee. I hope that it will be published in some format for the college's official celebration in Fall 2000."

Health and Beauty

By Lara Nagle

Layout Editor

Recently I noticed that more and more women I talk to have been diagnosed with Ovarian Cysts. Searching for more information on the topic, I began to wonder how common they are, and what is done to treat them.

All women form cysts during their menstrual cycle, primarily during ovulation. These cysts are usually very small and are termed functional cysts. Normally, when an egg matures in the follicle, a small sac on the surface of the ovary, the egg is released from the sac during ovulation and the sac dissolves.

If the egg is not released the functional cysts can become much larger and take a longer amount of time to dissolve. They usually do not cause many symptoms and are usually found only in routine gynecologic exams. But if they do not go away within 1 to 3 menstrual cycles or if they cause pain and discomfort further treatment maybe prescribed.

Another type of cysts is called a hemorrhagic cyst. This is when the cyst is not just filled with fluid, but blood is present also. Like the functional cysts, these usually go away without intervention. However, they often leak and cause pain. A Laparoscopy is then performed to alleviate the pain.

Sometimes cysts can become complex, either containing partly fluid elements and partly solid elements. They can also have walls within the fluid-filled cyst. These types of cysts take further evaluations by a doctor because they may be cancerous and often times MRI or a CT is performed. Depending on your age and the symptoms of the cyst, the doctor will be able to tell if it is cancerous or not. Surgery may be required to remove the cyst.

Cysts are common and most of the time functional. The majority of the time, we do not need to worry about them, but if you are experiences extreme pain during mid month or during your period, you may want to consider getting it checked out.

Women who are 21 and over, or are over 18 and sexually active should go to the doctor for a routine gynecologic exam (pap smear) just to be on the safe side. Cysts can often times be treated by the use of birth control pills if caught in its early stages.

Studying Abroad in London

By April McClellan

Staff Writer

Over the past three months, I have met a lot of interesting people. I've seen a lot of interesting things. I have experienced a ton of things while abroad here in London.

My whole perception about life and what God has in store for me has changed and I am glad that I took the opportunity to come to London and learn about myself and others in my surroundings.

The whole atmosphere in London is different and I suffered a tremendous culture shock. I didn't think that I would miss my family and friends as much as I have. I did not think money would be such a hassle and I was not mentally nor physically prepared for the trip.

I thought classes would be a breeze, and traveling would be easy. I expected to party every weekend and call home only on a month to month basis.

I was totally mistaken. I have spent more money phoning home and more time studying than I have ever in my life. Overall, the run has been well worth it, but London as a whole is not all it's cracked up to be.

I seriously thought I could handle the culture shock and major differences London had to offer, but their culture is too liberal and laid back for my liking. It seems like 90% of the population smokes and everyone drinks (all day, every day).

The thing that gets me most is that

those who get drunk and disorderly most are the American students that are studying abroad.

I think a lot of people get a false sense of what studying abroad really means. Many came with the presumption that their main focus would be traveling and school work would be secondary.

Many believed that the professor would be as lenient as to change class lectures and meeting times to accommodate their traveling and party needs. I'll probably never understand why and how some of the students made it thus far. I have watched them in their ignorance and seen the drunkenness get the best of people.

It's a shame that most of the American students represent me and where I come from. I have seen most of the stereotypes about the "typical American" played out before me.

However, I cannot allow myself to be offended because I know the stereotype doesn't depict me. I don't know if my attitude is too serious or straight forward or if I have taken the fun out of the experience, but I have seen many things that made me rethink why I chose to study abroad.

Overall, I am glad I came. If I hadn't come, I probably wouldn't have learned all these new things about myself and life in general. It has been a truly worthwhile experience, if only for the knowledge and wisdom I have gained through my exposure to a new culture and to people's reactions to it.

Profile: The Amazing Flury Santos

By Lara Nagle

Layout Editor

When you walk into the Business Office on the Chalon campus, you notice that every employee is busy trying to get their job done. Each of them suffers the daily stress of meeting their deadlines. Yet, when you walk up to the window, you are always greeted with a bright smile by Flury Santos, our ever cheerful cashier.

Flury began working at the Mount in October 1996. She says that she loves working in the environment here. "You are close to God here because you are working with the nuns," Flury says jokingly when asked what she likes about her job. She wanted to work at the Mount to gain experience and get used to the Western Culture.

Flury is originally from the Philippines and earned her Bachelor's degree in Economics at Santo Tomas University in Manila. She has also completed some work toward her Masters degree.

Please join us in congratulating Master of Physical Therapy student **Wilson Mendez** who has been awarded the 2000 Catherine Lies Memorial Scholarship. Wilson chose physical therapy as a career for the satisfaction it provides after helping someone in need. This satisfaction has already been realized from Spanish-speaking patients at the UCLA medical center who told Wilson how thankful they were to him for communicating in their own language. He wants to help low-income populations by developing community programs to help those that are in need of physical therapy services and cannot afford them. One of his long-term goals is to specialize in orthopedic physical therapy.

Second year Master of Physical Therapy students are invited to apply for the scholarship which is awarded for the final fall-clinical semester. The award serves to honor the student who most closely reflects Catherine's personal and professional commitment to others. The choice was difficult. The applicants each shared many of the exemplary qualities of Catherine such as dedication to others, and to life-long education, as well as a commitment to excel personally and professionally.

Congratulations!

Skeletons in the Closet: Mount Eat

Seeking Solutions...

If so many young people experience eating disorders, why has a solution not been found? Dr. Maria Herzog of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance claims the antidote should be education.

"Schools, especially high school and college, have a tremendous influence on teaching young women the tools and preventive measures to believe that beauty is on the inside, even though society practically throws it in your face that beauty is on the outside."

Are schools responding to the challenge? The answer seems iffy at best, tragic at worst. Though 99% of schools in a study of 490 largest colleges and universities have mental health facilities, less than half have an eating disorders specialist on their campus. And only 22% have eating disorders support groups on campus for students.

"Many colleges don't want to think their students have eating disorders. Just like anything else, it's always the other school," says Lisa Terrell program director of Malibu's Radar Center, a private eating disorders facility. Mount St. Mary's College may be included in the majority of colleges that point to the school down the hill as the "other," deficient in both an eating disorders specialist and a support group.

However, it may not be entirely the school's fault. Dr. Carol Povenmeyer, director of the Counseling Center for Mount St. Mary's College defends the void of eating disorders programs at the Mount due to poor student turnout rather than administrative effort. "We tried to get a number of support groups started, but ran into a few problems...there were few respondents and also scheduling problems. Students seem to be afraid about confidentiality, but we do refer all students to support groups outside of campus."

A Career in Modeling Can Often Have a Tragic Turn...Towards Anorexia!

Students struggling with eating disorders ultimately learn the price to pay to be society's poster model of emaciated beauty can often be sickness, isolation, and even death. Fourth year student Sarah Ah Hee recalls her struggle with anorexia with the strength and wry humor of someone who has just been through a war only to realize that the enemy she was fighting was herself.

Ah Hee is a reedy former Hawaii Miss Teen and model whose descent into anorexia started in 8th grade. She cringes, remembering the tiny costumes she was forced to wear in her professional dance class as the first seed of insecurity about her body began to grow. She started to diet, as well as exercise and dance four hours a day. The real trigger came during a modeling interview her freshman year of high school.

"I had gone to an interview for a catalog and in part of the interview I had to change into a bathing suit," she reminisces. "These four old disgusting Japanese men couldn't speak English and were staring at me and told me to turn around through an interpreter. When I did, the interpreter told I was very pretty." Ah Hee dryly adds, "I knew there was a 'but' coming up.... They told me that I had to lose five pounds in my butt. I was ready to cry...I was so humiliated."

Ah Hee learned "you can be the most beautiful thing in the world, but someone will always find a flaw in you. That's when I started to really stop eating so no one could find anything wrong with me...I wanted to be perfect."

Although at the time Ah Hee was 5'4, and a slender 110 pounds, she completely stopped eating, save for a few sticks of carrots, saltines, and celery. The celery she included because she had heard it had "negative calories... My modeling friends told me that it takes more calories to digest it than the actual number it had... My dad couldn't believe the loads of celery in the fridge," Ah Hee laughs sardonically.

The starving and exercising began to take its toll her junior year. She was get-

ting thinner, losing energy, and above all else, was ravenously hungry. As her hunger began to overpower her, she turned to the cycle of bingeing and purging common to anorexics when the body refuses to starve any longer.

"I got so much reinforcement for being skinny. It made me feel like food was the enemy..."

It's common, says Dr. Richard Kyle of the eating disorders clinic at Harvard Medical Center. "Anorexics usually cycle between starving and bingeing and purging because there's only so much starving the body can take. When you starve, you begin to obsess about food, have food rituals, dreams about food... Eventually once you're even in sight of food, the body can break down and the person starts to binge, eating in average 2500 calories an episode."

Compared to a normal 130-pound woman who should eat about 2000 calories a day, 2500 is an enormous amount. However, "when you haven't eaten anything significant for a couple of weeks or months, your body just needs to eat so badly, you ingest an incredible amount of calories to make up for the previous starving you have done," says Kyle.

Though it might be common, it was Ah Hee's biggest nightmare come true. Her weight rose to 118 pounds due to her usual binges of super-sized McDonald's meals that she purged through vomiting. Although, she was still exercising about three and a half hours a day, her clothing size rose from a size 0/2 to a size 7/8, as her weight fluctuated from her bingeing and purging episodes. "I felt it was the end of the world to be a size 7," Ah Hee says.

Though her weight was near a medically normal level, her anorexia still raged inside her mind, as voices inside urged her to lose the extra pounds. Unable to exercise after a knee and back injury that resulted from her constant and strenuous exercising, Ah Hee stopped her bingeing, but stopped eating altogether. "It was the worst I've ever been."

She chased diet pills with Slim Fast shakes and became an adept liar, making up fantasy meals to her worried parents' inquiries about what she had eaten that day.

The sun rises, a rooster crows, and girls across America wake up, brush their teeth, and eat breakfast...or do they? A closer look might reveal that they actually cut their toast in minuscule pieces and drown them in their milk or claim that they will eat it "later" though, unfortunately, later never comes. Instead, these girls are far too busy staring at their emaciated bodies in full length mirrors poking at imaginary dimples of cellulite, squeezing rolls of fat that don't exist, and then finally doing the scale dance. As if the scales might bite their feet, they step gingerly on scales. With one eye squinted closed in fear, they quickly glance at the number hoping, praying, that they have lost weight. A quick sigh of release and the day of lies, refusals, and denials began. And the cycle continues: "It's like a mental prison," third year student Melanie Ives* stresses. "Your mind finishes your body for even thinking about food. I wanted so badly to eat a muffin. I remember looking at it and seeing the chocolate chips and the moist bread and I swear, I could almost taste it, but then I thought, what a disgusting pig I am for even thinking about food," she recalls with a choke in her throat that is impossible to miss. Ultimately no matter how much Melanie's imagination matched reality, it wasn't. She didn't eat the muffin, nor sandwiches, and even denied herself yogurt, dried fruit, and every beverage besides water. Melanie is suffering from a tragically common psychiatric disorder among many young women today, Anorexia Nervosa. This "mental prison" is ensnaring many women across college campuses everywhere. In fact, one in four college women are caged in the restrictive world of eating disorders. Instead of prison guards charging in to sternly reprimand them these women of their misbehavior these eating disordered women are both the prisoner and warden, for they receive the punishment and impose it as well. They are forever watchful of their caloric intake for fear that one day they may not be able to feel their hipbones or sit in a chair without their butt getting painfully sore because of the lack of any fat to cushion them. And the punishment they give themselves for these infractions? Simply this: self hate, further restriction of their already meager food intake, laxatives, vomiting, and extra hours placed on their military-esque exercise regimes. The infamous prison hole may be a much better alternative.

Ironically, her out of control behavior was rewarded by society when she was crowned Hawaii Miss Teen her senior year of high school, which only confirmed what her anorexia had told her; her worth was measured by how thin she was.

"I got so much reinforcement for being so skinny. It made me feel like food was the enemy...after a while, I just got scared of food, I thought it would do horrible things to me." The pressures of staying thin for modeling made it worse.

Soon the business of keeping up the appearance for modeling shoots reached absurd heights. "They would tape back my thighs so that my legs would look skinnier in the photos," she says with incredulity in her voice. "I realized that it was all fake and I didn't want to starve myself anymore."

Her anorexia continued into college, but the supportive environment of her friends combined with knowledge obtained in her psychology classes helped to slowly lessen the restrictions she placed on herself. "People with eating disorders need good support groups or people who will be there for you, and I was lucky to make some great friends...we became support systems for each other."

Her psychology classes also gave insight into her disorder as she realized that the woman's average size is 14 and that there were serious medical repercussions to anorexia. Slowly, Ah Hee started to eat.

Though she still felt guilty eating, her friends would patiently sit with her during her meals and hours afterwards to make sure she wouldn't vomit.

Commenting on the fact that weight gain is not encouraged in society, Ah Hee is proud she was able to triumph over societal hypocrisy and gained a healthy 30 pounds.

Her recovery was fortunate in that Ah Hee was lucky not to be hospitalized, but

she still incurred health repercussions. Her body was so damaged from her years of starvation that she is now anemic and hypoglycemic.

Still, she has made great strides as she makes sure she always eats breakfast and happily states that she loves Taco Bell and In N' Out burgers. "I don't really know how I got better, I think I just started to mature and realize that I had to find happiness with myself internally, not externally, because that can always fade."

Another indication of her recovery is her revulsion toward the old pictures of her anorexic self. "I look at myself and I feel totally disgusted at what I was...I also gave away all of my size 0 and 2 clothes, some to campus ministry and others to cousins who are in 6th grade. They fit the clothes I wore in college," she states ruefully.

Ah Hee's life is full and busy today. Juggling clubs, classes, and a handful of good friends, she is happy and comfortable with herself. However, Ah Hee believes, "my eating disorder will always be a part of me. I don't think anyone can fully recover from something like that."

Kyle disagrees with Ah Hee and the popular idea that anorexics can never become completely free of their obsessions. "I call it the 'three is the magic number' principle. Studies show one third of women never get help, one third of women recover partially but still have eating problems in the future, and one third completely

recover and experience no eating difficulties," he says.

Ah Hee sees no danger of relapse in her future as her strength and love of life exceeds any illusions about thinness. She says it best when she looks at Hollywood actresses and models that embody the "perfect body." "Been there, done that," she smirks. "It's just not worth it."



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Eating Disorders

What is Anorexia?

Anorexia Nervosa is an eating disorder suffered by many college-age women, though this is not the only group to feel its effects.

Anorexics often feel any weight gain is going to snowball into a cycle that leads to obesity. To prevent this from occurring, they pride themselves on their dieting tactics that keep the weight off. Common strategies include starving and excessive exercise.

When their bodies become too weak due to the lack of nourishment, they often turn to a dangerous cycle of bingeing and purging.

Our Anorexic Society

The number of women with eating disorders has dramatically increased since the early 1980's, coinciding with singer Karen Carpenter's tragic death from anorexia. Not only is the rate of anorexia growing larger, but also is bulimia, an eating disorder in which people binge, or eat large amounts of food in a short period, then purge in such common methods as using laxatives, vomiting, and even exercising. Also made aware as an eating disorder recently is binge eating disorder in which people binge, but do not purge afterwards.

These eating disorders have captured somewhere between 5-10 million women and 1 million males in

the United States alone. Most of these sufferers are young, 14-25, which is no coincidence that this is the age frame in which women are going through adolescence or serious life transitions. Colleges are then, a virtual breeding ground for eating disorders to emerge. "New expectations of living on one's own, being part of a new community and new academic standards often lead to women feeling out of control. Individuals then create their own control around food and exercise to make up for the lack of control they feel in other areas of their lives," states Carla Manuel, coordinator for the California branch of Eating Disorders and Awareness Prevention Inc.

Control isn't the only motivator for developing, or rather un-developing any emblem of a woman's body. Society, with its glorification of slender bodies holds tremendous influence on impossible images of beauty among young girls and women who are willing to do whatever it takes to fit that mold. In 1999, covers of People and US are ablaze with dramatic transformations of actresses such as Laraine Boyle and Calista Flockhart from "normal" to anorexia-like thinness. The magazines speak of their drastic and unhealthy weight loss, but somehow achieve whatever positive intention they are trying to put forth. They speak out against it, yet they still put these coiffed and powdered figures on their covers. They seem to cry, "See, Losing weight does get you fame!"

Dr. Maria Herzog of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance or NAAFA agrees, calling it "a tremendous resurgence of the tiny little girl body. In today's actresses and models have, what people call the 'lollipop figure,' heads that seem too large for a stick-thin body. That so-called perfect body is actually so unhealthy and underweight, it is so far from perfect, in fact, it's deadly."

The actual number of articles on weight loss that send forth the message that thin is in are astounding. In a study of one teen magazine over the course of 20 years, it was found that all of the articles in the magazine included statements that weight loss would improve appearance. Another study of magazines found that women's magazines had more than 10 times the advertisements and articles promoting weight loss and thinness as an ideal than men's. It's no wonder that women are learning that losing weight means gaining respect in a world dominated by slender hips, slim legs, and concave stomachs. "Society is truly sending such a hurtful message in terms of what young women feel is the beauty ideal," laments Herzog. All of these magazines and TV shows show some of the thinnest women imaginable and put them on some sort of beauty pedestal...I mean how is a size 0 miniskirt barely hanging on hipbones sexy? What happened to Marilyn Monroe? Heck, what happened to Audrey Hepburn?" Herzog sardonically challenges.

It's a reasonable appeal. But one that doesn't seem to be heeded in a society where less than 5% percent body fat is equal to traits such as discipline and achievement. "Being skinny is somehow equal to having self control, intelligence, and of course, attractiveness. While being even a 'normal' weight to overweight is seen as lazy, unmotivated, and ugly...the last acceptable prejudice is against obesity," declares Herzog.

Birthday Cake Fears Encourage Starvation

Coming home after two months of her first year at the Mount, Josie Kim* knew she had gained thirteen pounds, almost the dreaded "freshman fifteen." Although self-conscious, she half-heartedly dieted and wore clothes that would flatter her new size 7 body. But once she saw her friends and sisters, her fragile acceptance about her larger frame shattered.

"Oh my god, you gained so much weight," was the usual response when my friends saw me. While a little comment like that might be something to cause a little blip of annoyance for another, it became a soul-shattering bullet in my stomach," says Kim. At 5'1 and a 109 pounds, Kim was by no means overweight, but not used to the additional 13 pounds that she had gained eating "fattening cafeteria food," she declared.

Petite with shiny black hair past her shoulders, Kim today looks close to a healthy weight. Of the anorexia and bulimia that tortured her for three years only shadows remain.

Kim admits she always had problems dealing with food in a healthy way, but maintained her high school weight of 100 pounds due to a fast metabolism and good genes.

Once, she entered college, the weight seemed to creep on slowly as she ate heaping portions of lasagna, whole pizzas, and french fries. "All my bad habits caught up with me and I gained weight. But, I had always been the skinny girl at school, and suddenly I was the 'fat girl,' it was like my identity was changing," she says pensively.

Incited by negative comments, she began to seriously diet, cutting out all meat, bread, and deserts. Anything with more than five grams of fat was considered poison, and salads and fruit became her staples. Though the weight slowly melted off, she aimed for more rapid results and began an exercise regime that grew more intense and lengthy with each month, eventually rising to three hours a day.

Ecstatic with the results, she plunged further into the diet that had now begun to control her. "It was so powerful...people were telling me how good I looked. Friends, my sisters, and even just saleswomen at stores...it was like no one could tell me how fat I was again and I had this amazing power over these people," Kim says.

That power soon turned deadly. After a year and a half of eating only a bagel for lunch and a salad and lowfat cupcake for dinner, her physical appearance began turning into something skeletal and grotesque. Kim had dropped a drastic 21 pounds and weighed a scant 88. The transformation was shocking. With her sunken in cheeks, eyes tinged with yellow, and hipbones jutting out of her skin, parents and teachers became concerned with her deterioration.

A breakthrough came one day when she realized she needed medical help. Although her parents were aware of an eating problem, being older Koreans who had no knowledge of anorexia, they were at a loss. "I broke down one day and told them, 'Mom, dad, I'm anorexic. Help me. They said, 'oh, well you should eat.' And then I knew my recovery would be pretty tough," she says dryly. More aware, her parents did try to make more of a conscious effort to help her, sitting with her at meals and preparing her favorite foods, but it simply wasn't enough.

"The whole control thing came up again and I felt that I had control over my parents by not eating what they had prepared. Even though I asked for help, I needed something more than peanut butter and banana sandwiches sitting on the counter ready for me because that was

what I had been doing this whole time; not eating what I wanted to," she says.

"I decided not to eat anything at all except fruit for the two weeks leading up to my birthday because I was scared about eating a piece of cake."

In 1999, two weeks before her 21st birthday, Kim fell to her lowest point. While a birthday celebration may have been a joy for anyone else, Kim was deathly afraid of one thing: birthday cake.

"I knew someone was going to buy me cake and I would have to eat at least a piece of it or everyone would think I was really sick. So, I decided to

not eat anything at all except fruit for the two weeks leading up to my birthday because I was scared about eating cake." Her birthday nearing, she began losing weight at a terrifying speed, dropping three to four pounds a week. On her birthday she weighed a terrifying 74 pounds.

Kim's hands began to crack and peel, getting so severely dry that just clenching her fist made her skin break and bleed profusely at the knuckles and backs of her hand. "It was so sick to see my hands bleeding, but in some way I was proud of it. In fact, that was one of the hardest thing about recovering; watching my hands get smoother and softer. It meant I was really getting healthy and that scared me."

Finally on the day of her dreaded birthday, she went home for her celebration to the worried eyes of her parents. Intending to surprise Kim by taking her to her favorite restaurant, one look at their emaciated daughter sobered them to the serious realization of how precarious her health was. They took her to the UCLA psychiatric hospital instead. Kim reminisces with tears in her eyes, "The only thing I thought on the way there was: I never got to eat birthday cake."

Diagnosed with anorexia, she withdrew from school for the semester, and entered the inpatient eating disorders ward at UCLA for one month learning how to eat all over again, attending group therapy, and individual psychiatric sessions, and learning how to make the transition from the insulated hospital ward to the "real world."

"I had to learn that in society, people diet everywhere and still say being thin is king...but I became stronger and didn't let them affect me anymore," Kim says proudly.

After Kim gained five pounds, she moved back home with her parents and attended bi-weekly therapy sessions and weekly group sessions. "The improvement was made by hard work, guts, and determination...she is well on the way to what I would say, is a strong recovery," Dr. Yvette Lavin, Kim's doctor says. Today, Kim has gained fifteen pounds and weighs 94, and no food is divided into good and bad categories.

A key to getting better, she believes is understanding what made you sick. "I just thought I had to be perfect in everything...and it was also a control thing. I didn't want anyone to have that power over me to say that I looked fat because to me that meant they thought I was weak for gaining weight. Now I know it doesn't really mean anything at all."

Kim is looking toward the future, a notion that she would never have done even a year ago. "I think I starved myself before my birthday because really, I wanted to die before I became 21...yeah, I was scared about eating cake, but more, I didn't want to

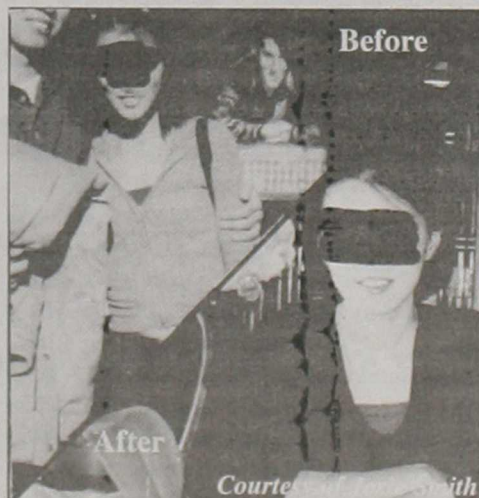
grow up...I wanted my body to stay a little kid forever, but my age was betraying me. Now, I just want to live life," Kim says with a grin.

Though Kim sometimes still skips breakfast or has trouble eating rich foods made with heavy cream or oil, she remembers what her mom would repeat to her everyday to motivate her to eat.

"She told me 'food is life,'" says Kim. Then she repeats the phrase in a whisper as if she can't believe how something so simple could have every alluded her, "Food is life."

All Stories and Layout by Julie Ahn, Staff Writer.

*some names have been changed for confidentiality



Kim once feared small joys such as birthday cakes, but has regained control and is now comfortable with her weight.

Congratulations!!!**Chalon Student Leaders of 2000-2001**

Each year, many are called, but few respond. Leadership opportunities are abundant in the Mount. Recently on the Chalon campus, elections for three of the most important executive boards took place. Here are the results of the student vote. Expected within the next few weeks are Doheny's choices in the same areas, ASB, Residence Halls, and Resident Assistants.

Chalon RAs:

Patricia Sanchez, B1
Kim Nguyen, B1
Melanie Drummond, B2
Sharina Shields, B2
Valerie Gonzales, B3
Wendy Duchon, C1
Maritza Rhodas, C2
Chastin Pierman, C3
Millicent Ongaco, C4
Anika Fernandez, C5
Maria "Concha" Duenas, R2
Jennifer Yennick, R3

*B=Brady, C=Carondelet, R=Rositer;
R2 includes Magnificat House, R3
includes apartments, C1 includes CASA

Chalon RHA Board:

Brooke Hardcastle, President
Melissa Klink, Vice President
Gabriela Robledo, Secretary
Kimi Boyce, Treasurer
Isabel Estrada, Program Coordinator
Ellisa Pavlish, NCC
Nikki McAndrew, NRHH Chair
Dolores Patterson, NRHH Secretary/Historian

Chalon ASB Board:

Valerie Ocampo, President
Marliese Segismundo, Chair of Finance
Monica Bilog, Senior Senator
Erika Gallo, Senior Senator
Mariana Anaya, Sophomore Senator
Hannah Cvammen, Sophomore Senator



Laura Lopez

What does it really take to be an RA and qualities are you looking for?

"We look for a person that is open to learning as well as brings her leadership and ideas into a group...we do not necessarily look a type of person, we look at all the candidates and make sure that they will balance each other out with strengths and weaknesses."

—Laura Lopez,
Director of
Residence Life

"A lot of appreciation, open-mind, approachability, desire to help, exceed in college are some of the qualities that needed. The desire to be with people. Group dynamic is an important component because they need to be able to go to each other for help."

—Jenny Hernandez,
Assistant Director of
Residence Life

Be All That You Can Be... as a RA

Incoming freshmen are received with open arms and services to make the road towards higher education a lot less bumpy. One of those services freshmen, as well as resident upper classmen, have are Resident Assistants (RAs). A few good Women are chosen from several applicants to be role models and support system for the Mount community. They are trained during the summer to resolve most problems.

The question many are left to ponder is how to become a RA. That question boggled me, so I decided to ask the two people on this campus that know everything there is to know about residents and their lives—the Director of Residence Life, Laura Lopez and Assistant Director, Jenny Hernandez—to find out what it really takes. What I found out didn't surprise me, but it helped me have a better appreciation for R.A.s. They are there to help and assist us, the residents, but we need to value the time, effort, dedication, and love they put into their floors and its constituents. They deserve our profound thanks.

How has or has the process changed in recent years?

"Not really...the process is still the same in terms of application, group process and individual interviews...the only thing that has change, are the activities the candidates have to do during group process."

—Lopez

Do you think the RA process/ procedure can be improved? And if yes, how?

"There is always room for improvement...the selected RA's will evaluate the process soon and we will make changes according to their feedback."

—Lopez

"Yes, there is always room for improvement. Students/residents need to take more responsibilities in evaluating there peers."

—Hernandez

Is there a big turn out every year for RA positions?

"Every year is different...it

depends on advertisement and the popularity of the position during that year...students know that the RA position comes with a lot of rewards as well as challenges, so they really think about it before they apply."

—Lopez

"Yes, there always is. It's a job people want to have either because they want to help people or for economic reasons or both."

—Hernandez

What are the most common qualities of the RA's chosen for next year?

"Time commitment, open minded, willingness to learn, team work, and possitive attitude"

—Lopez

"The qualities I mentioned before and being eager to learn something new, be challenged, wanting to push themselves, and willing to help."

—Hernandez

THE CLASS OF 2000 SENIOR CLASS GIFT

What is it? Each year the graduating class of MSMC shows their support of the college by making a contribution to a project chosen by the class.

This year, the class of 2000 has voted to have their gift designated to a scholarship fund for future MSMC students.

Please consider making a gift of \$20.00 (in honor of our class year). But any amount you can give will help! Our goal is getting 100% of our class to participate!!!

There will be a table set up weekly in April outside the Little Theater where you can drop off your gift. Or you can mail checks (made payable to MSMC) by inter-campus mail to:

Office of Annual Giving, Doheny campus, attn: Senior Gift.

(This year you will also have the option of making an additional 3-year pledge. This means that in addition to your \$20.00 gift (or whatever amount you can give this year), you will pledge to give another \$20 in 2001, \$30 in 2002 and \$50 in 2003. This will add to the Class of 2000 Scholarship and will allow it to be awarded for 4 years!)

If you have questions, please call Liz Zima at extension 2534.

Thanks!

Sr. Karen Kennelly

College President

By Joan Fletcher

Editor

The year 2000 marks the end of a millennium. Not only is it a milestone for the Christian community of the world, but for the Mount. In its 75 year history, the Mount has had 14 presidents. Our current president, Sr. Karen Kennelly, has decided that 2000 will not only be the mark of the millennium, of the college's 75th year, but of the end of her career as college president.

She has faithfully served the Mount community for 11 years and will be missed by countless students, staff and faculty. Her beautiful smile and caring attitude will be among the things missed most.

Kennelly became President of Mount St. Mary's College on August 1, 1989. She will retire on June 30, 2000. In those years between, she has overseen countless improvements and changes on campus. The biggest change, however, is to come as she leaves. Rather than having a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet fill the position, as it has always been, she will be replaced by a lay person, Dr. Jacqueline Doud, current Provost who is on sabbatical.

Kennelly stated out as a history professor. She was a professor and chair of the history department at the College of St. Catherine from 1971 to 1979, when she was offered a position as Executive Director of the National Federation of Carondelet Colleges. She was then elected Director of the St. Paul Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1982.

Kennelly, being the history profes-

sor, has a passion for the past. She teaches Latin American History and has written many professional articles.

A few of her recent publications include "Religious Institutes and Their History," "Archbishop Ireland, St. Paul Seminary, and the 'Woman Question'"; and "Women Religious in American Catholic History: Religious Life for Women in the United States," for "The Encyclopedia of American Catholic History."

Kennelly is also a book reviewer and lecturer, and was editor of "American Catholic Women: Historical Experiences," Macmillan, 1989.

Kennelly is an alumna of the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minn. She holds a master's degree in history from The Catholic University of America and a doctorate in history from the University of California, Berkeley.

Kennelly's efforts as President were greatly appreciated by all. Students look with excited anticipation for Dr. Doud, as changes in the college are sure to come with the new presidency. All we can hope for is the best.

To Sr. Karen, we wish her the best of luck in her retirement and hope that all of her dreams are fulfilled. (Some information taken from the administration pages of the Mount website).



Dr. James Delahanty

History and Poli Sci Chair

By Geovanna Henao

Staff Writer

Dr. James Delahanty once said that teaching to him was like having a "long conversation" with someone. Delahanty has belonged to the Mount community for 39 years. He is the chair of the History and Political Science department. On April of 1961, Delahanty was called by an administrator of Mount Saint Mary's, and was asked if he would like to teach here. The following Fall, Delahanty began his journey as a college professor.

Delahanty graduated from Rutgers University in New Jersey in 1957 with a Bachelor's degree. The following year he attained his Masters. His interest in Politics and excellent professors contributed to his decision of receiving degrees in History and Political Science. Delahanty taught full time while continuing his own education.

At age forty, Delahanty began Law School. He attended and graduated from Loyola with a Law degree in 1975. He stated that by being in his forties, as opposed to his twenties, he was "able to organize and allocate his time."

He joyfully commented, "I'm probably one of three people in this country who loved Law School." He felt it was a very freeing experience. Being forty allowed Delahanty to enjoy Law School for what it was because he already had a set career and did not have to ponder where his Law Degree would

take him. Therefore, he was able to enjoy it in its entirety. Law School for Delahanty was an "intellectual feast."

Throughout Delahanty's teaching career he has experienced many joyful but also hard moments. At the age of forty Delahanty lost his hearing. However, as is apparent, he never allowed this obstacle to get in the way for his passion for teaching. Delahanty also had a very memorable moment as a teacher. In 1969, Delahanty won the first "Distinguished Teacher Award."

The best part of teaching for Delahanty is that every four years he encounters a new student body, new issues and new ways. He also mentioned a few of the differences of teaching at an all-girl school as opposed to a co-ed. He believes that the way of relating is different and that it is harder for a woman to arrange priorities

because of the claims placed on women. Delahanty has thoroughly enjoyed teaching here at the Mount. Laughingly and vibrant he exclaims, "I've enjoyed it!"

Dr. Delahanty's journey has now come to an end. Thirty-nine years later, he has decided to retire. He is looking forward to his retirement and plans to travel and care for his roses.

Unbelievably enough Delahanty does not have any magic secrets to leave behind, he says that he shared everything with his students in the classroom. He simply wants everyone to know that he's enjoyed his journey here at the Mount.

In 1961, Delahanty began his long conversation with students, now in 2000 he is bringing an end to this type of conversation he calls teaching. This is what he will miss the most.

Dr. Delahanty, you're not the only who has enjoyed this journey. We, the Mount Community, have enjoyed it as well. Farewell and thank you for your contributions.



The Mount Bids Fairwell to Esteemed Staff Members

Steve Lopez

Grants and Restricted Funds

By Joan Fletcher

Editor

Passing through the Administration Building on the Chalon campus, heading toward the Humanities Building, there was always one office students would stop to smile or wave hello. Music playing low, but loud enough to hear in the hall, the small Grants Office in the corner of the corridor seems to be the most unlikely place for such a friendly face.

"Working at the Mount was kind of unusual for me. I'm not a student services person. Most people shouldn't know I exist. Because I am in accounting, I'm usually behind the scenes and people never see me. But here, it's unusual. I know so many people. It's cool," Lopez comments, reflecting on his days at the Mount.

Steve Lopez worked at the Mount for 13 years. He started the first day in the Spring semester in February of 1987. He was hired as an accountant for the loan fund. His role soon came to be much more than that.

"Accounting is often an abstraction of human activity. We often forget that it's not just numbers. These are real people, sacrifices people must make to pay for an education."

Lopez was often known as the guy who was always seen at the Fitness Center, working out or running the loop. He also supports many school functions, such as bake sales. "They always have them right outside my office," he laments as he notes that he has splurged on goodies for several days in a row.

One of the many roles Lopez took on was the sort of Mount historian for the Business Office. Due to the fact that he worked here for

13 years, he knew all the procedures. He is also a good source of information to find out about the Mount's earlier days.

"The infrastructure here has gotten tremendously better. The electricity doesn't go out anymore and the water is not turned off every once in a while because a pipe broke. We also have more technology. When I started, the Business office had one PC and there were less than 10 elsewhere on campus."

Lopez has also been involved in many committees on campus and has seen changes with the administration. He served on the advisory committee that made the decision to end inter-collegiate sports. He also saw the Mount assets grow by millions. However, "the need has increased just slightly faster than the growth. It's harder to provide financial aid now."

Lopez is now moving on in his life. He has received an accounting position at UCLA, where his experience is sure to be different. "It's like going from a little pond to a big wave. It's a dynamic place... more dynamic than the ocean!" While he enjoyed his experience at the Mount, Lopez is looking forward to working at UCLA, where he received his BA in English in 1976. When he left college, he had a tremendous love for poetry, but says he went into accounting because it was more stable.

Though his experience at the Mount was unique and unlike any other accounting job, he really enjoyed it. "I wouldn't have traded it for anything. It was the best experience of my life," he smiles. "Whatever the students saw in me and thought was attractive, it was a reflection of themselves. I see the potential in them. I have always loved the Mount students."

Andrea Willer

Chalon Director of Fitness Education

By Maya Gaddie

Assistant Editor

The Fitness Center bids farewell to Andrea Willer, former Director of Fitness Education. Her presence will truly be missed.

"Her sense of humor and easy going attitude is what will be missed," says Gladys Echon, a member of the Fitness Center staff. "She was not a strict boss," says Echon.

Willer was known for implementing programs like Fitness 2000 and Life Fitness. Fitness 2000 was meant for "getting in shape for the new millennium."

By encouraging those who were already straying from their New Year's resolution in January, she gave new motivation to those without any.

"No deadlines, no cost, and no pressure. All you have to do is sign up, workout, and win prizes as you achieve your goals."

These encouraging words were featured on a flyer meant persuade students to get up and exercise. A set of rules also helped to maintain consistency with participating students.

Lifetime Fitness is a class that requires 30 hours per semester on independent study. The purpose is to

help students establish a goal and meet it with consistency and to develop habits "necessary for pursuing a lifestyle of wellness."

In addition to this, the class also requires two fitness assessments, one to set a goal and one to evaluate your progress.

Other requirements include a goal paper, a one page paper describing your fitness goals and aspirations, and a reflection paper, a one page paper describing your fitness experience in this class. Students must also complete a food log.

Willer also encouraged students to attend a Breast Cancer Lecture by two Breast Cancer Survivors, Anne Henderson and Karen Van Kirk.

They spoke about detection, cause, and treatments, risk factors, and the reduction of the risks of breast cancer. (For more information see article, *It Can Happen to You* - p 2.)

Willer has left her footprint at the Fitness Center by creating useful and fulfilling programs that inspired many students to maintain a consistent workout while adding a healthy lifetime.

Andrea Willer, a great contributor, will be missed by the Fitness Center crew and all staff and students.

Leave It To The Imagination!

By Joycelyn Lee

Entertainment Editor

"It used to be that kids went to movies to watch adults having sex. Nowadays adults go see movies to watch kids having sex."

-Roger Ebert

Whatever happened to "leave it to the imagination"?

How many times have I been in a theatre and been struck by the non-sequituous nature of a nude scene, the obligatory T&A shot, or the graphic depiction of unbridled "love" between a mature male actor and much younger female actress?? (American Beauty, anyone?)

For a while, it seemed the pendulum was swinging toward balancing female and male nudity, but obviously film-goers, a large majority of them adolescent boys, still wish to see female body parts.

The fact remains, a huge percentage of movies are still being made BY men FOR men. It does make me wonder how actors and actresses in mainstream Hollywood differentiate their crafts from that of their adult-film brethren/sisters? A bigger ego? A fatter paycheck?

The Oracle's ENTERTAINMENT BLOWOUT!

SCENE and HEARD: Top Entertainment News

CASTING

Keanu Reeves will star as a slacker who learns obligatory life lessons after coaching an inner-city Little League team in "Hardball."

Reeves as a slacker? Who will buy it...?

BACKING HER UP

Dr. Laura Schlessinger has received a rare show of support. The association of National Religious Broadcasters (which has more than 1,250 Christian members) has released a statement saying that she has been unjustly criticized for her anti-homosexual views, and that her new talk show should not be axed because of them.

"The logic these protesters are

using clearly doesn't make sense," the group wrote. "To say Paramount should silence Dr. Laura for her lack of 'tolerance' is on its face intolerant. Such twisted logic should be rejected as laughable and the issue put to rest."

The NRB just loves Dr. Laura, having given her a chairman's award earlier this year for her morality and respect for the Ten Commandments.

RECOVERING

Burt Bacharach broke his left shoulder on Wednesday after missing a step during a rehearsal, and now he's had to cancel this week-end's concerts in Milwaukee. What the world needs now is rest, sweet rest.

Movies Now Playing: Are We DOOMED?!

By Joycelyn Lee

Entertainment Editor

Here on Earth:

Doomed teen lovers Chris Klein and Leelee Sobieski in gooeey, Love Story-eque drama.

Wonder Boys:

Michael Douglas plays doomed, pot-smoking English professor with writer's block.

Romeo Must Die:

Doomed interracial friendship between Chinese action hero Jet Li and Boutique owner Aaliyah.

High Fidelity:

Romantic drama about record store owner (John Cusack) plagued with doomed love life.

Return to Me:

Are widower David Duchovney and heart transplant recipient Minnie Driver doomed (er, DESTINED!) for each other?

Erin Brockovich:

Illegal-toxin dumping crusader Julia Roberts will be damned if she's doomed to losing this court battle.

The Skulls

Secret Underground Societies in Ivy League College? 3 US Presidents were life members? Now you KNOW why we're doomed.

Hey Jude! The Price of Fame and Other Musings

By Joycelyn Lee

Entertainment Editor

HEY JUDE! Every few years, a good-looking, arguably talented young Hollywood actor is designated as the next James Dean. He's predicted to be the pretty face topping everyone's "it" list, the next big heart-throb. Who's the buzz this time around?

Jude Law. Lately, it's been impossible to walk by a magazine stand and miss seeing him glorified in a photo spread, or to turn on the TV without seeing him as a guest on some talk show.

He's no newcomer to the motion-picture business. *Gattaca*, *Wilde*, and *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* as just a few of the roles he has taken. His star turn as the dashing, irresistibly charismatic Dickie in *The Talented Mr. Ripley* garnered him an Oscar nomination. It also elevated his star potential in the hallowed halls of Hollywood.

In short, if Law becomes the next victim of Leo-mania syndrome I'll puke. With this sudden burst in media and public attention, one would think that the

"biz" would turn him into an narcissistic ego nightmare...and who could blame the pretty boy?

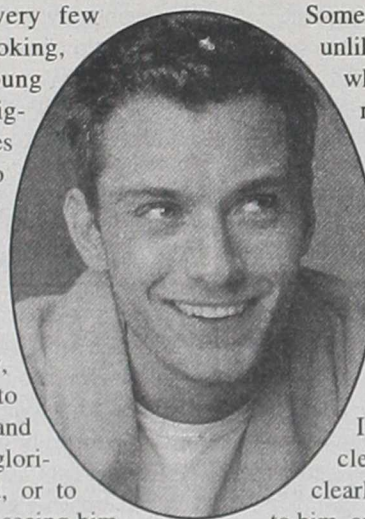
Somehow, though, I deem that unlikely. Law would handle whatever degree of fame he receives in a calm cool and collective manner, as he's done in the past.

When Rosie O'Donnell commented about how beautiful her guest's eyes were, did he make a big deal of it? No, he thanked her and went on with his business. In every interview and article I've read, he's stated

clearly how little fame means to him, and how important his work is to him. However, he always emphasizes that it comes second to raising his son Rafferty, age three.

Note that he never said he does or doesn't want fame. He just indicated his ambivalence toward it, as well as the fact that it's of definite lesser importance, which leads me to believe that he's got his head on straight, and that even if he has exploded into this Big Pulsing Hot Guy phenomenon in a matter of just a few months, he'll be fine.

Plus, he's made wise choices, so... Hey Jude, just don't make it bad!!!



Useless Facts Corner

And You Thought They Were just another Pretty Face...

- Matt Damon attended Harvard for 3 years.
- Edward Norton speaks fluent Japanese.
- Will Smith turned down an MIT scholarship to pursue a music career.
- Sharon Stone is a member of MENSA.
- Mira Sorvino speaks fluent Mandarin-Chinese.
- Lisa Kudrow graduated from Vassar with a degree in Biology.
- Kevin Spacey was class co-valedictorian in high school.

DON'T MISS OUT!!!



Are you
graduating
in
FALL 2000?

Have you received a grad. packet from the Registrar's Office?

✓ Yes—then fill out those forms & return them by May 5, 2000!

✓ No—Stop by the REG. office to request a packet!

Apartments for Rent

Looking for a place to live?

www.housing101.net...

Your move off campus!

Search for apartments.

Free roommate sublet listings.



Previewing Upcoming Talent:

Mindi Abair, Musician Extraordinaire

What do you get when you cross Gwen Stefani of No Doubt with Lisa Loeb and Jewel? Her name is Mindi Abair and the talented musician is slowly breaking her way into mainstream pop rock.

By Joan Fletcher

Editor

As music fans connected to the "biz" only through mainstream radio stations and big-name record labels, we rarely see beyond the image. We rarely have the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with a talented musician before the rise to fame has cleared away every bit of authentic human emotion. All too often we are met with the mere facades of stars with their masks carefully paint on, hiding all that is real. On April 14, the talented Mindi Abair, future famous musician, gave *The Oracle* the opportunity to view a musician rather than an image.

Armed with nothing more than an optimistic attitude and her own musical talents, Abair came to Los Angeles to pursue a music career. On the way, she has picked up odd jobs from waitressing to playing the saxophone for the famed Backstreet Boys, earning herself the title "Backstreet Girl."

Abair describes herself as a sort of Pop Rock artist. "I am not as folky as Jewel and not quite as punk or rock as No Doubt. I am somewhere in there. I like being compared to people who are on the edge. I'm probably the Millenium Blondie. Blondie was kind of Pop, but Rock."

Abair grew up in a musical household. Until about age four, she toured with her parents as her father played in an R&B band. "Music was normal in my household. My dad had a studio since I was five and by 10, I was playing the sax on demos with him."

Abair smiles.

Her musical family is just one source of inspiration for her music. "I think it all influences," she pondered. "I went through a lot of different phases. I grew up on the road with my dad and that was soul and R&B music. Then he went from that job and started working with rock and roll bands. I used to sit in those practice rooms for weeks at a time, blasting rock and roll. I think it all affected [my music]."

Then I went to college and I totally got into jazz. You can't really not get into jazz playing the saxophone. That brought me in a different direction. And through it all, I've always listened to pop and I've always loved it. I think it all contributes to the person you are..."

Abair, partly through the influence of her family, always knew she wanted to be a musician. She started on the piano at age six and moved on to the saxophone at age eight. She had no formal lessons until she reached college.

In high school, Abair would audition for the All-State Symphony Orchestra each year. However, she says, "it was fun and all, but I always looked at the All-State Jazz band and was like 'they're cooler.' It's like, these guys are dweebs. I want to be like them!"

Her mind made up, she began preparing for the audition. However, her school was "having no part of it. They didn't help me get the music or anything for the audition."

Finally obtaining the music a week before the audition, she began practicing. "I

didn't know anything about jazz. I just knew that they were cooler than the symphonic people and I wanted to be with them. So, I practiced for a week and the day before the audition, I was like, I can't do this..."

On the brink of quitting, Abair had to tell her father she was giving up. "My dad said 'Alright. If you want to be a quitter, that's cool.' I was like, 'hey, wait a minute.' Complete reverse psychology. Later he came in and said, 'Sometimes the most talented don't get it. Sometimes it's just the people that go for it because they have the guts.'" she smiles.

The encouragement her dad gave her at that last moment inspired her to audition for the All-State Jazz Band and she earned a place in the band as first-chair alto sax. She was the only female member.

Reflecting on the lack of female role models Abair had in her own youth, she applauds the way barriers are beginning to be broken down in the music industry. "She recognizes the strengths of all musicians and is 'happy when I see a girl rocking out there. We need more to stick with it.'"

Fortunately, Abair has not encountered the famous "Old Boys Club" in the music industry. In her experience, "if you can play your instrument or if you can sing or if you can write, it doesn't matter if you're a boy, a girl, black, white, big, small or whatever. If you have something to say, you can say it. I just never paid too much attention to being a girl. I always thought music is music and hopefully we can get past the boundaries of being women and men or whatever."

On the issue of pop artists such as Britney Spears or Christina Aguilera, Abair encourages the young women to pursue their careers in music, but worries they are lumped into one category. They "lack personality," she says, commenting that they all look alike.

"I just hope one of them dies their hair brown or something soon."

Though she recognizes the fact that these young pop princesses are very successful right now, Abair cannot see herself put in the same category. Beside the fact that she is a musician rather than an artist (meaning, she plays her own instrument and writes her songs), she says "I have a little red at the bottom of my hair...and I don't dance well."

Getting into the music business has been quite a struggle for this young musician whose music is described as clear, uncluttered and catchy in a review of her songs on MP3.com.

Right now, Abair finds herself on a break from her long tour as saxophonist for the Backstreet Boys. She is grateful for the opportunities and exposure she received through them.

Abair's year-long break from her own music to work with the Backstreet Boys has not only given her the opportunity to develop herself

musically, but has given her exposure as her fan base widens. "The Backstreet Boys fans have been incredible to me. I think a lot of my fans right now are from the Backstreet Boys. Once I put out my own CD and they found out about it, they were supportive of that, really supportive. I'd get amusing emails from these girls that were like we want to see your record in stores!"

Though Abair's CD, which was coproduced by Matthew Hager, is only available on the Internet at www.mindiabair.com, for a bargain price of \$12, she is hoping to find a record company to promote her CD. On a recent chat on cyberventure.com, Abair explained her CD is not available in stores because she lacks the financial capital usually provided by a record company. She hopes to find one soon, but is amazed at the difficulty, even when she has a group as influential as the Backstreet Boys backing her all the way.



Mindi Abair smiles for a surprise photo with Joan.

A Brief Bio...
Who is Mindi?

- Upcoming musician who writes and performs her own music.
- Genre: Pop Rock
- Cross between Gwen Stephani and Jewel.
- Attitude: optimistic and friendly
- Find out more info at www.mindiabair.com

Get the "Skinny" on Lori Gottlieb's Newest Book, Stick Figure

By Julie Ahn

Staff Writer

"Food is Medicine," writes Lori Gottlieb's doctor on a prescription for Lori to follow. While, for many people, the order would be easy to follow, for Lori it is not just difficult, it is impossible. Lori has Anorexia.

The book, *Stick Figure* by Lori Gottlieb is actually a reworking and enhancement of her 11-year-old diary written during the late 1970's. Lori is a precocious and sassy child in an uncommunicative family living in Beverly Hills.

Her father is rich and plays among the elite of Hollywood, while her mother is one of those society woman who is smugly on a constant diet, while inside hides a fat woman just lurking to eat a piece of pastry when no one's looking.

Her mother's friends and aunts also live in this restrictive and plastic world, where husbands and sons are cooed on to order rich and fattening delicacies and themselves, order salads, only to have torturous tasting "bites" of theirs.

It's a confusing place for Lori, who the boys deem as "having a body," to which Lori puzzles over, thinking she always had a body. But slowly, the impenetrable main character, our powerful heroine, a girl who actually thinks diets are silly, starts to be smothered by the contradictions of society's expectations.

Finally, during a frustrating night with her relatives that we can all relate to, Lori decides she is tired of being considered "unique," she just wants to fit in for once. Watching her cousin, Kate take only a handful of rice and a small piece of chicken, Lori becomes aware of her own ample helpings.

When Kate haughtily points out that Lori must be "really hungry," Lori retorts that Kate must be "really full." But, that impishness that we love about Lori starts to turn into a fanatical desire to fit in.

While Lori is at first incredulous of Kate and her mother's dietary hypocrisy, she can't help but compare her body's to Kate's, and notices that her butt looks bigger than her cousin's.

Soon, Kate becomes the ideal that Lori looks up to as how a real woman should behave, act, and especially eat, and so begins her deathly diet.

Spiraling further down in her anorexia, Lori starts to even think that inhaling her doctor's breath reeking of pastrami will make her ingest some actual calories.

At another desperate point, her father sets up a meeting with Jacklyn Smith when Lori wonders aloud how much thinner the Charlie's Angels are than her. Upon meeting her, Lori seems to show one silent cry for help, when she asks Jacklyn if she thinks she is too skinny, because her father will "kill her if she doesn't." It seems a little more likely that Lori herself seeks the approval of an actress known for her beauty and long limbs.

Unfortunately, Jacklyn Smith misses the chance to help an anorexic girl, telling her she is not too thin, and shouldn't listen to the nay Sayers who say otherwise. Ironically the Charlie's Angel that does good and prevents bad, fails to do so at perhaps her most crucial mission.

Lori winds up at Cedars-

Sinai with a too spunky nutritionist named Bonnie who shows her pictures of dancing food that's supposed to motivate her to eat. Fat chance.

Though Lori knows how dangerous her situation is becoming, she still refuses to cooperate, throwing away food, claiming she is diabetic to one unknowing nurse who takes away her food, and tricks the math impaired nurses into believing that she has finished the required 75% of her 0% finished food.

After a botched suicide attempt, Lori fears that she will be put on the feared "tube," the feeding tube which is equal to the boogeyman for most children. However, soon Lori finds out that there is something worse than the "tube," death.

Though books about anorexia are plentiful in recent years, *Stick Figure* gives a kind of unique perspective as it was written during the time of the disorder, rather than a reflection afterwards. Lori's 11-year-old voice is evident in its refreshing tone, which challenges, rather than acquiesces to life's double standards and strange rules.

Wishful thinking aside, Lori's older voice is also mixed in to create a wise and hopeful tone for the future of all women, a desire that one day 11 year olds will not draw a stick figure for their ideal body.

It's a quick read and not as intensely painful as other books that delve into the topic of eating disorders, which is the giver of both its high and low points. Charming and somewhat light, the book is fun to read. Which is not to say that a book about anorexia couldn't be fun, but really, should it be?

It perhaps misses the point a little, as it splashes brevity on a situation that may require a bit more seriousness, and a little less carelessness.

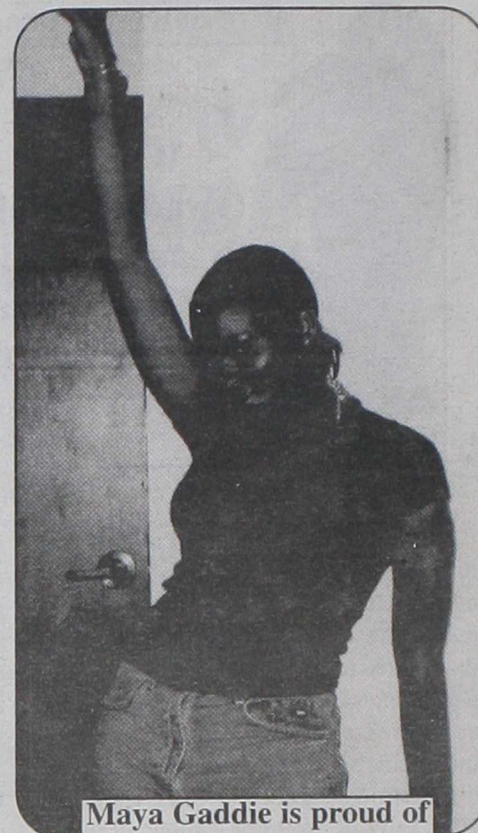
To give Gottlieb some credit, it could be her intention to show that 11-year olds don't think anorexia is an especially grim concern, which may be the scariest point that the book reveals.

Never preachy, Gottlieb does manage to get her ultimate point across: being a stick figure is only good in one thing-playing hangman, literally.



Claudia Almanza helps Joan Fletcher stay "upright."

Vanity Fair



Maya Gaddie is proud of all her hard work!



Lara Nagle

Lara, didn't anyone ever tell you you're too big for a carousel?!



Suzi Schroeder

Claudia Almanza

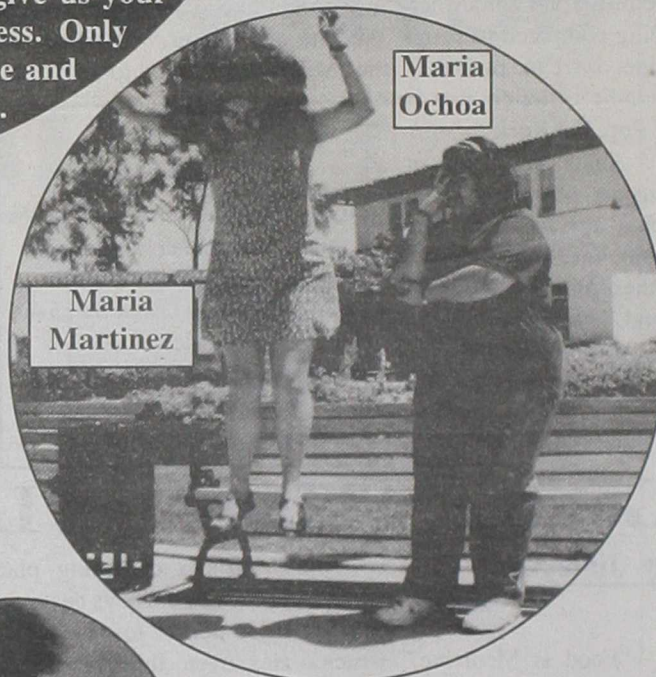
Welcome to the final issue of The Oracle. At this time we'd like to thank you all, our faithful readers, for the time you have spent looking over our paper, making positive (and negative) comments (constructive criticism!), and for the support you have given us all year long. Provided that this is our last issue of The Oracle, it is the one time we are allowing ourselves to put ourselves, our faces or our comments (well, sure, we comment in opinion articles, but that's what they're for...) and quotes into the paper. We hope you have had a great year and that you have grown along with us. We would also like to thank the administration for their involvement in the paper. It has definitely been a growing experience for us all and hopefully, next year we can make this paper the top-rate, number one newspaper Mount students deserve to read. As a last request for the year, I would like to now invite anyone interested in joining The Oracle to contact us at (310) 954-4122 or email us at <oracle@msmc.la.edu>. We would especially like to see some more Doheny representation. Also, feel free to give us your comments or criticisms at the same email address. Only by feedback do we learn where to improve and to grow. Thank you. God bless.
—Joan Fletcher, Editor



April McClellan & Claudia Almanza



Lauren



Maria Martinez

Maria Ochoa

•Jump Maria Martinez! Oh, geez, says Maria Ochoa. Contributing writers have all the fun!
•Ooh! Joycelyn and her milk moustache perfectly match that fine young fellow on her door!



Lauren

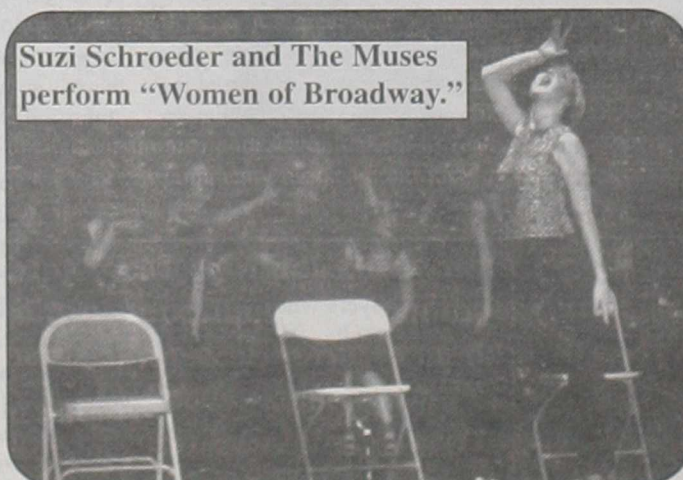


Asilki



Brie

Suzi Schroeder and The Muses perform "Women of Broadway."



Joycelyn